

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

July 7, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. Ferguson IV  
President  
Senate of Maryland  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones  
Speaker  
House of Delegates  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Critical Life Threatening Incident Report required by Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21) (MSAR #11851) and Education Article §7-1510(g)(3) (MSAR #11594)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Pursuant to Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21), Education Article §7-1510(g)(3), and State Government Article §2-1257, the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) respectfully submits the following report, which contains identified lessons learned and school safety recommendations following a critical life-threatening incident on public school grounds.

If you have any questions about this report or would like additional information, please contact MCSS Deputy Director, J. Dino Pignataro at [joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov](mailto:joseph.pignataro@maryland.gov) or 410-281-2335.

Sincerely,



Kate Hession  
Executive Director

# **Maryland Public School**

## **Critical Life-Threatening Incident**

### **After-Action Summary**

On February 23, 2022 there was an incident involving a school within Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) that met the criteria to be considered a Critical Life-Threatening Incident pursuant to Md. Ed. Art. § 7-1510 (g) and COMAR 14.40.05.

#### **Notification** [COMAR 14.40.05.04A]

On February 23, 2022, the PGCPS School Security Coordinator (SSC) notified the Maryland Center for School Safety of the incident.

#### **After-Action Meeting** [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On March 23, 2022, an after-action meeting was held involving school representatives, law enforcement, and a representative from MCSS.

#### **After-Action Report** [COMAR 14.40.05.04C]

On May 23, 2022, PGCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

#### **Lessons Learned**

Based upon the after-action review led by the PGCPS, the following lessons learned were identified:

1. Upon being notified of threats of violence made against the school or students, school officials should begin following their local behavioral threat assessment policy and procedures.
2. When responding to school emergency incidents, effective communication and coordination among school staff and assigned school resource officers (SROs) is essential in keeping schools and students safe.
3. An adequate number of security personnel should be in place to properly support the school. Local school systems should continuously assess individual schools to determine their security staffing and school

resource officer needs. When conducting these staffing assessments, many factors should be considered including:

- a. The enrollment of students in the school and the number of faculty and staff;
- b. The size of the school facility and campus (e.g., floors, buildings, square footage); and
- c. The number of access and egress points within the school.

## **School Safety Recommendations**

1. Maryland schools and school systems should continue to encourage students to report threats of violence to a trusted adult. Additionally, schools have access to Safe Schools Maryland,<sup>1</sup> which provides a mechanism to anonymously report threats of violence.
2. Md. Ed. Art. §7-1507(c) requires school systems to adopt a behavioral threat assessment team policy that is consistent with the State model policy.<sup>2</sup> Schools should annually train and test behavioral threat assessment team processes and procedures.
3. Schools should be equipped with bleeding control kits and administration, nursing, security, and other critical staff should be trained on their use. Schools should also consider providing bleeding control training to all school personnel and students.
4. School system staff and first responders need to all be familiar with existing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and those MOUs should include how school administrators and SROs will communicate during an emergency and generally throughout the school day.

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<sup>1</sup>Safe Schools Maryland is an anonymous and free reporting system available to students, teachers, school staff members, parents, and the general public to report any school or student safety concerns, including mental health concerns. Safe Schools Maryland serves all Maryland public schools and currently over 200 private schools in Maryland. Safe Schools Maryland operates twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Anonymous reports can be submitted by calling the tip line (1-833-MD-B-SAFE / 1-833-632-7233), completing an online form at <http://safeschoolsmd.org/>, or downloading the free Safe Schools Maryland app from the App Store or Google Play.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*