Maryland Public School Critical Life-Threatening Incident After-Action Summary Report

School Year: 2026-2027

Maryland Center for School Safety

Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21)
Education Article § 7-1510(g)
COMAR 14.40.05.04

Submitted: November 16, 2026

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The Honorable Wes Moore
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 Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
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), Education Article § 7-1510(g) (MSAR #11594), and COMAR 14.40.05.04 (MSAR #15583).

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Pena-Melnyk:

Pursuant to Education Article § 7-1502(g)(21), Education Article § 7-1510(g), and State Government Article § 2–1257, and COMAR 14.40.05.04, 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 Ron Pierce at ronald.pierce@maryland.gov or 443-903-0164.

Sincerely,

Kate Bryan
Executive Director

Maryland Public School
Critical Life-Threatening Incident
After-Action Summary

On August 31, 2026 there was an incident within Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) 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 August 31, 2026 the MCPS staff notified the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) of the incident.

After-Action Meeting [COMAR 14.40.05.04B]

On October 28, 2026 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 October 30, 2026 MCPS submitted an after-action report to MCSS.

Lessons Learned

Based on the after-action review led by MCPS, the following lessons learned were identified by individuals participating in the after-action meeting:

1. Early information sharing and rapid triage between school system leadership and local law enforcement prior to the instructional day are critical to evaluating threat credibility swiftly. Conducting joint threat assessments before the start of school enables authorities to resolve unverified threats without disrupting educational operations or compromising facility safety.

2. Rapid operational resolution allows school and district leaders to issue timely, accurate public messaging before rumors can circulate. Delivering coordinated, fact-based communications to families directly mitigates community anxiety and maintains trust in school safety protocols.

School Safety Recommendations

1. Local education agencies (LEAs) and law enforcement partners should establish formal standard operating procedures to jointly evaluate digital and social media threats. Integrating public safety agencies into the threat assessment process provides 24/7 investigative capabilities and specialized intelligence access necessary to determine threat credibility and identify responsible parties before operational decisions are enacted.

2. School systems and public safety agencies should institutionalize joint triage workflows to assess threat validity prior to selecting and executing emergency response protocols. Establishing verified threat credibility before initiating emergency actions ensures proportional responses, preserves instructional continuity, and enables leadership to issue timely, accurate communications to students, staff, and families that prevent community anxiety.