

## **Bomb Threats**

Bomb threats, whether real or intended as a prank, represent a danger to the safety and welfare of persons and to the integrity of school property. Bomb threats disrupt the instructional program and learning environment while placing significant demands on school financial resources and public safety services. Any bomb threat will be regarded as an extremely serious matter and treated accordingly.

### **Prohibited Conduct**

No person will make, or communicate by any means, whether verbal or non-verbal, a threat that a bomb has been, or will be, placed on school premises. Because of the potential for evacuation of the schools and other disruption of school operations, placement of a bomb or of a "look-alike" bomb on school premises will be considered a threat for the purpose of this policy.

It is also a violation of Board policy to communicate by any means that a threat of any toxic or hazardous substance or material has been placed, or will be placed, on school premises with the intent to endanger the safety and welfare of students or staff or to disrupt the operations of the schools. The placement of a hazardous substance or a "look-alike" substance will be considered a threat for the purpose of this policy.

### **Definitions**

A "bomb" means an explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, "Molotov cocktail" or other destructive device.

A "look-alike bomb" means any apparatus or object that conveys the appearance of bomb or other destructive device.

A "bomb threat" is the communication by any means whether verbal or non-verbal that a bomb has been or will be placed on school premises, including possession or placement of a bomb or look-alike bomb on school premises.

A "toxic" or hazardous substance or material means any material or substance, including biomedical materials or organisms that when placed as threatened, could be harmful to humans.

"School premises" means any school property and any location where any school activities may take place.

**Reporting of Bomb Threats**

Any student or staff member who learns of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb on school premises must immediately report such information to the building principal.

The building administrator will immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with the school's Crisis Response Plan, and inform the Superintendent of the threat.

The Superintendent will be responsible for reporting any bomb threat to the Department of Education within two business days of the incident. Reports will include the name of the school, the date and time of the threat, the medium used to communicate the threat, and whether or not the perpetrators have been apprehended.

**Student Disciplinary Consequences**

Making a bomb threat is a crime under Maine law. Any student suspected of making a bomb threat will be reported to law enforcement authorities for investigation and possible prosecution.

Apart from any penalty imposed by law, and without regard to the existence or status of criminal charges, a student who makes a bomb threat will be subject to disciplinary action by the school.

In accordance with district policy on Threats of Violence and Weapons in the School, the administration may suspend and/or recommend for expulsion any student who makes a bomb threat. The making of a bomb threat will be considered deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A M.R.S. §1001(9) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school.

Following a hearing by the Board, a student who is found to have brought a bomb to school may be expelled from school for at least one year in accordance with 20-A M.R.S. §1001(9-A), unless the Superintendent presents extenuating circumstances.

Any student who has been identified through the IEP process as having a disability and whose conduct in violation of this policy is related to the disability will be disciplined as provided in policy.

**Aiding Other Students in Making Bomb Threats**

Any student who knowingly encourages, causes, aids or assists another student in making or communicating a bomb threat will be subject to the disciplinary consequences described above.

**Failure to Report a Bomb Threat**

Any student who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb or other destructive device in a school building or on school property may be subject to disciplinary consequences, which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

**Staff Disciplinary Consequences**

Any school system employee who makes or communicates a bomb threat will be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Any school system employee who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb on school premises will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

**Civil Liability**

The school unit reserves the right to bring suit against any individual responsible for a violation of this policy and to seek restitution and other damages as permitted by law.

**Lost Instructional Time**

Instructional time lost as a result of a bomb threat will be rescheduled at the earliest appropriate opportunity, as determined by the Superintendent in consultation with the Board.

Time lost may be rescheduled on a weekend or vacation day, or after what would normally be the last day of the school year, except on days when schools must be closed as required by law.

**Notification Through Student Handbook**

All student handbooks will address the school unit's bomb threat policy and procedures and explain the educational consequences of bomb threats. In addition, student handbooks will notify students and parents that bomb threats violate Board policy and civil and criminal law.

Legal References: 18 U.S.C. §§ 921; 8921; 17-A M.R.S.A. § 210  
20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 263; 1001(9); 1001(9A) 1001(17); 1001(18)

Cross References: EBC - Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan  
JKD – Suspension of Students  
JKE – Expulsion of Students  
JKF – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities  
JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety  
JICDA – Student Code of Conduct

*This is a required policy.*

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