

Policy: EBCC

BOMB THREATS OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE

The Board recognizes that bomb threats or threats of violence are a significant concern to the District. Whether real and carried out or intended as a prank or for some other purpose, a bomb threat or threat of violence represents a potential danger to the safety and welfare of students and staff and to the integrity of District property. Bomb threats or threats of violence disrupt the instructional program and learning environment and also place significant demands on District financial resources and public safety services. These effects occur even when such threats prove to be false.

Any bomb threat or threat of violence will be regarded as an extremely serious matter and treated accordingly. The Board directs the Superintendent to react promptly and appropriately to information concerning bomb threats or threats of violence and to initiate or recommend suitable disciplinary action.

A. Conduct Prohibited

No person shall make, or communicate by any means, whether verbal or non-verbal, a threat that a bomb has been, or will be, placed on District 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 any toxic or hazardous substance or material has been placed, or will be placed, on District premises with the intent to endanger the safety and welfare of students or staff or to disrupt the operations of the schools. For the purpose of this policy, 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.

It is also a violation of Board policy to threaten harm to an individual or individuals in District facilities or to individual or District property.

B. Definitions

1. A bomb means an explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, Molotov cocktail or other destructive device.
2. A look-alike bomb means any apparatus or object that conveys the appearance of a bomb or other destructive device.
3. A bomb threat or threat of violence 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, or that chemical or bio-hazardous materials have

been, or will be, place on District premises, including possession or place of chemical or bio-hazardous material, or that individuals or individual property are targeted for violence.

4. District premises means any District property and any location where any District activities may take place.

C. Development of Bomb Threat or Threat of Violence Procedures

The Superintendent or his or her designee shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb threats or threats of violence as part of the District's Crisis Response Plan. These procedures are intended to inform administrators and staff of appropriate protocols to follow in the event that a bomb threat or threat of violence is received and should include provisions to address:

1. Threat assessment (for the purpose of identifying a response that is in proportion to the threat, in light of what is necessary to ensure safety),
2. Building evacuation and re-entry (including selection of potential destinations for evacuees),
3. Incident command and control (who is in charge, and when),
4. Communications contacts and mandatory bomb threat or threat of violence reporting,
5. Parent notification process,
6. Training for staff members, and
7. Support services for students and staff.

The initial bomb threat or threat of violence procedure will be subject to approval by the Board. The Superintendent or his or her designee will be responsible for overseeing a review or evaluation of bomb threat or threat of violence procedures prior to the Boards required annual approval of the District's Crisis Response Plan, or following implementation of the procedure in response to a specific threat.

D. Reporting of Bomb Threats or Threats of Violence

A student who learns of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb on school premises or a threat of violence must immediately report such information to the Building Principal, teacher, or other employee in a position of authority.

An employee of the District who learns of a bomb threat or threat of violence shall immediately inform the Building Principal. The Building Principal shall immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with the District's Crisis Response Plan, and inform the Superintendent of

the threat.

All bomb threats or threats of violence shall be reported immediately to the local law enforcement authority, as provided in the Crisis Response Plan.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for reporting any bomb threat or threat of violence 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.

E. Student Disciplinary Consequences

Making a bomb threat or threat of violence is a crime under Maine law. Any student suspected of making a bomb threat shall 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 or threat of violence shall be subject to disciplinary action by the District.

The administration may suspend and/or recommend for expulsion any student who makes a bomb threat or threat of violence. The making of a bomb threat or threat of violence will be considered deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A M.R.S.A. 1001(9) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school.

In addition, a student who is found to have brought a bomb to school shall, after hearing by the Board, be expelled from school for at least one year in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. 1001(9-A) and Policy JICIA, except that the Superintendent may modify the requirement for expulsion based on individual circumstances.

A student who has been identified through the PET process as having a disability and whose conduct in violation of this policy is related to the disability shall be disciplined as provided in Policy JKF.

F. Aiding Other Students in Making Bomb Threats or Threats of Violence

A student, who knowingly encourages, causes, aids or assists another student in making or communicating a bomb threat or threat of violence, shall be subject to the disciplinary consequences described in Section E of this policy.

G. Failure to Report a Bomb Threat or Threat of Violence

A student who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat or threat of violence or the existence of a bomb or other destructive device, or chemical or bio-hazardous material in a District building or on District property may be subject to disciplinary consequences, which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

H. Staff Disciplinary Consequences

A District employee who makes or communicates a bomb threat or threat of violence will be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Disciplinary action taken shall be consistent with collective bargaining agreements, other employment agreements and Board policies.

A District employee who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat or threat of violence or the existence of a bomb or chemical or bio-hazardous material on District premises will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

I. Civil Liability

The District 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.

J. Lost Instructional Time

Instructional time lost as a result of any violation of this policy will be rescheduled at the earliest appropriate opportunity, as determined by the Superintendent within parameters set by 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.

K. Notification through Student Handbook

All student handbooks shall address the District's bomb threat or threat of violence policy and procedures and explain the educational consequences of violation of the policy. In addition, student handbooks shall notify students and parents that bomb threats or threats of violence 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(9-A); 1001(17); 1001(18)
Ch. 125 10.06 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross References: EBCA- 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
Student Code of Conduct

Adopted: August 20, 2004

Amended: November 9, 2015

