

BOMB THREATS AND TOXIC OR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES THREATS

- 1.0 The Board recognizes that bomb threats and the threat of toxic or hazardous substances are a significant concern to the school department.
- 2.0 All threats, whether real or intended as a prank, will be regarded as an extremely serious matter. The Board directs the Superintendent to react promptly and appropriately to information concerning threats and to initiate or recommend suitable disciplinary and/or legal action.
- 3.0 Prohibited Conduct: No person will make, or communicate by any means, whether verbal or non-verbal, a threat concerning the following;
 - 3.1 That a bomb or a “look-alike” bomb has been, or will be placed, on school premises with the intent to endanger the safety and welfare of persons, or cause the evacuation or other disruption of school operations; and
 - 3.2 That any toxic or hazardous substance or material or “look-alike” toxic or hazardous substance or material has been, or will be placed, on school premises with the intent to endanger the safety and welfare of persons, or to cause the evacuation or other disruption of school operations.
- 4.0 Definitions for the purpose of this policy, the following definitions will apply:
 - 4.1 A “bomb” means an explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mines, “Molotov cocktail” or other destructive device.
 - 4.2 A “look-alike bomb” means any apparatus or object that conveys the appearance of a bomb or other destructive device
 - 4.3 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.
 - 4.4 “School premises” means any school property or vehicle and any location where any school activities may take place.
 - 4.5 “Toxic or hazardous substance or materials” means any material or substance, including biomedical materials or organisms, that, when placed as threatened, could be harmful to humans.
 - 4.6 “Look-alike hazardous substance or materials” means any material or substance that conveys the appearance of a hazardous substance or material
- 5.0 Development of Bomb Threat and Toxic or Hazardous Substance Procedures: The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb threats as part of the school department’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 toxic or hazardous substances and materials is received and should include provisions to address:

- 5.1 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);
 - 5.2 Building evacuation and re-entry (including selection of potential alternative sites for those who are evacuated);
 - 5.3 Incident “command and control” (who is in charge and when);
 - 5.4 Communications, contacts and mandatory reporting;
 - 5.5 Parent notification process;
 - 5.6 Training for staff members; and
 - 5.7 Support services for students and staff.
- 6.0 The initial procedures will be subject to approval by the Board.
- 6.1 The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for overseeing a review or evaluation of bomb threat procedures prior to the Board’s required annual approval of the school department’s Crisis Response Plan, or following implementation of the procedure in response to a specific threat.
- 7.0 Reporting of Bomb Threats and Toxic or Hazardous Substances: A student who learns of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb or a threat of toxic or hazardous substances and materials on school premises must immediately report such information to the building administrator, teacher, the School’s Resource Officer or other employee in a position of authority.
- 7.1 An employee of the school department who learns of a threat will immediately inform the building administrator.
 - 7.1.a. The building administrator will immediately report all bomb threats and/or the presence of toxic or hazardous substance to the Superintendent;
 - 7.1.b. Simultaneously, the building administrator will immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with the school department’s bomb threat and toxic or hazardous substances and materials procedures, as developed under Section 5.0, of this policy.
- 8.0 All bomb threats or reports of toxic or hazardous substances will be reported immediately to local law enforcement authority.
- 8.1 The Superintendent will be responsible for reporting any such threats to the Department of Education within two business days of the incident.
 - 8.1.a. 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.
- 9.0 Student Disciplinary Consequences: Any student suspected of making a threat will be reported to law enforcement authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. Apart

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

9.1 The administration may suspend and/or recommend for expulsion any student who makes a threat.

9.1.a. The making of a threat 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 peace and usefulness of the school.

9.2 A student who is found, after a hearing by the Board, to have brought a bomb, or toxic or hazardous substance or material to school may be expelled from school in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A § 1001 (9) and Policy JICIA.

9.3 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 will be disciplined as provided in Policy JKF.

10.0 Aiding Other Students in Making Bomb Threats and Threats of Toxic or Hazardous Substances or Materials: A 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 in Section 9.0, of this policy.

11.0 Failure to Report a Bomb Threat or Threat of Toxic or Hazardous Substances or Materials: A student who fails to report information or knowledge of such a threat or the existence of such a threat may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include, but is not limited to suspension and/or expulsion.

12.0 Staff Disciplinary Consequences: A school department employee who makes or communicates a bomb threat or threat of toxic or hazardous substances or materials will be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

12.1 Disciplinary action taken will be consistent with collective bargaining agreements, other employment agreements and Board policies.

12.2 A school department employee who fails to report information or knowledge of such a threat or the existence of such a threat will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

13.0 Civil Liability: The school department 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.

14.0 Lost Instructional Time: Instructional time lost as a result of a bomb threat will be rescheduled at the earliest practicable opportunity, as determined by the Board.

14.1 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.

15.0 Notification through Student Handbook: All student handbooks will address the school departments bomb threat and toxic or hazardous materials policy and procedures.

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)

Cross Reference: EBCA-Crisis Response 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 (Pending-Not Written Yet)

Adopted: November 7, 2002