

BOMB THREATS

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

Any bomb threat will be regarded as an extremely serious matter and treated accordingly. The Board directs the Superintendent/principals to react promptly and appropriately to information concerning bomb threats 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 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.

B. Definitions

1. A **“bomb”** means an explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, 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”** 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. **“School premises”** means any school property and any location where any school activities may take place.

C. Development of Bomb Threat Procedures

The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb threats as part of the school department’s Crisis Response Plan (EBCA-R). These procedures are intended to inform administrators and staff of appropriate protocols to follow in the event that a bomb threat is received.

The Superintendent/designee will be responsible for overseeing a review or evaluation of the bomb threat as part of the annual review of the school department’s Crisis Response Plan.

D. Reporting of Bomb Threats

A student who learns of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb on school premises must immediately report such information to the building principal, teacher, the School Resource Officer or other employee in a position of authority.

An employee of the school department who learns of a bomb threat shall immediately inform the building administrator. The building administrator shall immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with the school department's bomb threat procedure, as developed under Section C, and inform the Superintendent/designee of the threat.

All bomb threats shall be reported immediately to the local law enforcement authority, as provided in the bomb threat procedures.

The Superintendent/designee shall 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.

E. Student Disciplinary Consequences

Making a bomb threat 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 shall be subject to disciplinary action by 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.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 after a hearing by the Board to have brought a bomb to school shall be expelled from school for at least one year in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 1001(9-A).

F. Aiding Other Students in Making Bomb Threats

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

G. Failure to Report a Bomb Threat

A 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.

H. Staff Disciplinary Consequences

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

A 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.

I. 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.

J. Lost Instructional, School or Staff Time

Instructional, school or staff time lost as a result of a bomb threat may be rescheduled as determined by the Superintendent in consultation with the Board and the staff.

K. Notification Through Student Handbook

All student handbooks shall address the school department's bomb threat policy and explain the educational consequences of bomb threats. In addition, student handbooks shall 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(9-A);1001(17);
1001(18)

Cross References: EBCA – Crisis Response Policy
EBCA-R – Crisis Response Plan
JKD – Suspension of Students
JKE – Expulsion of Students
JICI - Weapons
JICDA – Student Code of Conduct

Adopted: 11/13/02