

## BOMB THREATS

The Board recognizes that bomb threats 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 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 the District's financial resources and public safety services. 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 to respond promptly and appropriately to information concerning bomb threats and to initiate or recommend suitable disciplinary action.

A. Conduct Prohibited

No person shall make a bomb threat or threaten to place toxic or hazardous substances or materials on school premises.

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 looks like a bomb or other destructive device.
3. A **"bomb threat"** is the communication, by any means, whether verbal or non-verbal, that a bomb or look a like 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 including school vehicles, and any location where any school activities may take place.
5. **"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.

C. Development of Bomb Threat Procedures

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb threats as part of the District's Crisis Response Plan.

The initial bomb threat procedure will be submitted to the Board for its review. The Superintendent will be responsible for reviewing bomb threat procedures.

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, or other employee.

An employee of the District who learns of a bomb threat shall immediately inform the building administrator. The building administrator or designee shall immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with the school

unit's bomb threat procedure, as developed under Section C, and inform the Superintendent 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 shall be responsible for reporting any bomb threat to the Department of Education as required by the Department.

E. Student Disciplinary Consequences

Any student suspected of making a bomb threat shall be reported to law enforcement authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. In addition, the school will discipline any student who:

- violates Section A of this policy
- who knowingly encourages, causes, aids or assists another student in violating Section A of this policy
- fails to report information or knowledge of a violation of Section A of this policy

The administration may suspend and/or recommend for expulsion any student who violates Section A of this policy. Such violation 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.

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. Staff Disciplinary Consequences

A District employee who violates Section A of this policy, or who fails to report information or knowledge of a violation of Section A, will be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

G. 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.

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.

H. Notification Through Student Handbook

All student handbooks shall address the District’s policy and procedures 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)  
Commissioner’s Information Letter #3, July 3, 2002

**Cross References:**

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  
JA - Student Code of Conduct

Adopted: 4/28/03