

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #53
Burnham – Detroit - Pittsfield

Bomb and Hazardous Substance Threat

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 school 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 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. 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 school premises with the intent to endanger the safety and welfare of students or staff and/or to disrupt the operations of the schools. For the purposes 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.

C. 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” 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, including transportation to and from school and/or school activities.

D. Development of bomb and hazardous substance threat procedures

The superintendent/designee shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb and/or hazardous substance threats 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 and/or hazardous substance threat is received.

Legal References: 18 U.S.C. §§ 921; 8921
17-A MRSA § 210
20-A MRSA §§ 263; 1001(9); 1001(9-A); 1001(17); 1001(18)
Chapter 125 § 10.06 (Maine Department of Education Rules)

Policy References: MSAD #53 Crisis Plan
5.05 Crisis Intervention
11.13 Weapons Free Schools
9.07 Standards for Responsible and Ethical Student Behavior
9.12 Suspension/expulsion of students
9.16 Interrogation and Search
9.28 Police Involvement
9.29 Individualized education program

Adopted: March 6, 1995
Amended: January 6, 2003
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