

**MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
(MSSM)**

BOMB THREATS

The Maine School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees recognize that bomb threats are a significant concern to our School. 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, campers, 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 Executive Director 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 School 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 School. 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.

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.

D. Development of Bomb Threat Procedures

The Executive Director/designee shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb threats as part of MSSM’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. These procedures are intended to

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45 inform administrators and staff of appropriate protocols to follow in the event that a
46 bomb threat is received and should include provisions to address:

- 47 1. Threat assessment (for the purpose of identifying a response that is in proportion
- 48 to the threat, in light of what is necessary to ensure safety);
- 49 2. Building evacuation and re-entry (including selection of potential alternative sites
- 50 for those who are evacuated);
- 51 3. Incident "command and control" (who is in charge, and when);
- 52 4. Communications contacts and mandatory bomb threat reporting;
- 53 5. Parent notification process;
- 54 6. Training for staff members; and
- 55 7. Support services for students and staff.

56 The Executive Director/designee will be responsible for overseeing a review or
57 evaluation of bomb threat procedures annually.

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59 E. Reporting of Bomb Threats

60 A student who learns of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb on School
61 premises must immediately report such information to the Executive Director, Dean
62 of Students, teacher, or other employee.

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64 An employee of MSSM who learns of a bomb threat shall immediately inform an
65 administrator. The administrator shall immediately take appropriate steps to protect
66 the safety of students and staff in accordance with MSSM's bomb threat procedure,
67 as developed under Section D, and inform the Executive Director of the threat.

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

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72 The Executive Director shall be responsible for reporting any bomb threat to the
73 Department of Education within two business days of the incident. Reports will
74 include the name of the School, the date and time of the threat, the medium used to
75 communicate the threat, and whether or not the perpetrators have been
76 apprehended.

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78 F. Student Disciplinary Consequences

79 Making a bomb threat is a crime under Maine law. Any student suspected of making
80 a bomb threat shall be reported to law enforcement authorities for investigation and
81 possible prosecution. Apart from any penalty imposed by law, and without regard to
82 the existence or status of criminal charges, a student who makes a bomb threat shall
83 be subject to disciplinary action by the School.

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85 The administration may suspend and/or recommend for expulsion any student who
86 makes a bomb threat. The making of a bomb threat will be considered deliberately
87 disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A M.R.S.A.

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88 §1001(9) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and
89 usefulness of the School.

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91 In addition, a student who is found after hearing to have brought a bomb to School
92 shall be expelled from School for at least one year in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A.
93 §1001(9-A) and Policy JICIA, except that the Executive Director may modify the
94 requirement for expulsion based on individual circumstances.

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96 A student who has been identified through the IEP process as having a disability and
97 whose conduct in violation of this policy is related to the disability shall be disciplined
98 as provided in paragraph one of Policy JKF- Disciplinary Removal of Students with
99 Disabilities.

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101 G. Aiding Other Students in Making Bomb Threats

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

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106 H. Failure to Report a Bomb Threat

107 A student who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat or the
108 existence of a bomb or other destructive device in a School building or on School
109 property may be subject to disciplinary consequences, which may include
110 suspension and/or expulsion.

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112 I. Staff Disciplinary Consequences

113 Any MSSM employee who makes or communicates a bomb threat will be reported to
114 appropriate law enforcement authorities and will be subject to disciplinary action up
115 to and including termination of employment. Disciplinary action taken shall be
116 consistent employment agreements and Board policies.

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118 Any MSSM employee who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat
119 or the existence of a bomb on School premises will be subject to discipline up to and
120 including termination of employment.

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122 J. Civil Liability

123 MSSM reserves the right to bring suit against any individual responsible for a
124 violation of this policy and to seek restitution and other damages as permitted by
125 law.

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127 K. Lost Instructional Time

128 Instructional time lost as a result of a bomb threat will be rescheduled at the earliest
129 appropriate or practicable opportunity, as determined by the Executive Director.

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131 Time lost may be rescheduled on a weekend or vacation day, or after what would
132 normally be the last day of the school year.

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134 L. Notification Through Student Handbook

135 All student handbooks shall address MSSM's bomb threat policy and procedures and
136 explain the educational consequences of bomb threats. In addition, student handbooks
137 shall notify students and parents that bomb threats violate Board policy and civil and
138 criminal law.

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140 Legal References: 18 U.S.C. §§921; 8921

141 17-A M.R.S.A. §210

142 20-A M.R.S.A. §§263; 1001(9); 1001(9-A); 1001(17); 1001(18)

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144 Cross References: EBCA – Crisis Response Plan

145 JKD – Suspension of Students

146 JKE – Expulsion of Students

147 JKF – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

148 JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety

149 JIC – Student Code of Conduct

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151 Implemented: November 13, 2013

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153 1st Reading: December 7, 2013

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155 2nd Reading: March 15, 2014