

Barre Town Supervisory District Policy Manual

TITLE: Threats and Disruptions to School Operations Policy CODE: EBCC

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Barre Town School District to respond quickly and effectively to any threat to the safety of its students and staff. (As a result, it has adopted the following provisions that its personnel are directed to follow in order to prepare for, respond to, and follow up on the communication of any threat that a destructive device or any unauthorized hazardous substance or material has been or will be placed on school grounds.)

II. CONDUCT PROHIBITED

It is a violation of this policy for any person to make, issue, or otherwise communicate by any means, a threat that an action will take place or a destructive device (bomb threat) has been or will be placed on school grounds or property. The issuance or communication by any means of a threat that any unauthorized hazardous substance or material has been placed or will be placed on school grounds with the intent to disrupt the operations of the school district is strictly prohibited. It is a violation of this policy for any person to knowingly place or install a hoax device on school grounds or property.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Definitions

1. "Destructive device" means any (a) explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb; or (b) explosive, incendiary or poison gas grenade; or (c) explosive, incendiary or poison gas rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces; or (d) explosive, incendiary or poison gas missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter (1/4) ounce; or (e) explosive, incendiary or poison gas mine; or (f) device which consists of or includes a breakable container including a flammable or liquid compound, and a wick composed of any material which, when ignited, is capable of igniting the flammable liquid or compound, and can be carried or thrown by one individual acting alone; or (g) device similar to those devices enumerated in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section.
2. "Hoax device" means any device so designed, assembled, fabricated or manufactured as to convey the physical appearance of an explosive or incendiary bomb or the physical appearance of any of the devices enumerated in subdivisions (a)-(f) of division 1. of this section, which is lacking an explosive or incendiary charge.
3. "School grounds or property" means: facilities, buildings, fields, and grounds areas; vehicles owned, leased or used by the District to transport students to and from school or school activities; parking lots (including vehicles in the parking lots); or any other setting which is under the permanent or temporary supervision and/or control of the Barre Town School District.

IV. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of each student to contribute to a safe and productive learning environment in the school by demonstrating respect and consideration for fellow students and adults. This includes complying with all policies and rules of conduct of the School District and individual classrooms.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Principal, in consultation with the educational staff, will develop an overall discipline plan pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §1161a.

The plan will include clear guidelines for student behavior. The guidelines for student behavior will include prohibitions against the possession by students of knives, weapons and dangerous instruments while at school, and shall allow disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for violations of the prohibition against knives, weapons and dangerous instruments that are not possessed at school as part of an educational program sponsored or sanctioned by the school. Behavioral expectations, and the consequences of misconduct, will be stated in the student handbook and other publications distributed to students and parents/guardians.

VI. NOTIFICATION AND TRAINING

A. Policy Dissemination. A reference to this policy shall be included in all school handbooks.

The Barre Town School District has adopted a comprehensive policy on what to do in the event of a bomb threat or treats to disrupt school operations. You may obtain a copy of the complete policy by requesting one from the principal's office.

While the School District intends to respect the legitimate privacy interests of all persons, it is lawful for school authorities within constitutional boundaries to conduct reasonable examination of personal property on school grounds, including but not limited to lockers, desks, backpacks, book bags, and automobiles. In the event of a bomb threat or other threats, the School District may have to search such items in order to assure the safety and protection of people and property.

It is important for members of the school community to know that any academic time lost as a result of a bomb threat, or other threats intended to disrupt school operations, will be rescheduled, either on a weekend, vacation day, or following what would otherwise be the end of the school year.

In addition, under State law, the making of a bomb threat is a very serious criminal offense, punishable for even a first offense by as much as 2 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. The making of such a threat may also lead to civil liability.

B. Training. The administration shall develop a method of reviewing and discussing this policy and the Emergency Operation Plan with students and employees.

Date Adopted: October 20, 1999

Date Revised:

1st Reading: : February 2, 2005, 6/3/2009

2nd/Final Reading: March 2, 2005, 7/6/2009

Legal Reference(s):

Cross References: JIH Student Interrogations, Searches & Arrests

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