

Board of Education Policy

BOMB THREATS

The Board of Education recognizes that the potential harm caused by a bomb threat is not limited to serious injury and property damage. A bomb threat can also create an atmosphere of anxiety and panic, which, in turn can result in the disruption of normal activities and the educational process. The Board further recognizes the District's responsibility to ensure the safety of students, staff and other building occupants whenever a bomb threat is received by being properly prepared with a plan of action to respond to the threat.

A bomb threat is a criminal act and will be treated as one. Any bomb threat to the District will be taken seriously; no bomb threat will be treated as a hoax or a prank. The District will vigorously pursue disciplinary action against any student or staff member caught intentionally reporting a false bomb threat, consistent with the provisions of the student code of conduct, State law, or any applicable collective bargaining agreement. In addition, the District will urge law enforcement officials to prosecute any person caught intentionally reporting a false bomb threat to the fullest extent of the law. Further, the District may seek restitution from the parent or guardian of any minor child between the ages of 10 and 18 who intentionally and falsely reports a bomb threat, or places a bomb on school property, for the expense of responding to the false report, or incident.

The Superintendent of Schools shall establish procedures to be followed by all staff and students in the event of a bomb threat and these procedures shall be made part of each school's emergency management plan. They will include:

1. School operators or other school personnel receiving, locating, or observing bomb threats should immediately notify the principal, or his/her designee if the principal is absent;
2. The Building Principal or his/her designee should then immediately contact the Superintendent and the local police, fire or other emergency squad, and any other appropriate law enforcement official.
3. The Building Principal or his/her designee should order the immediate evacuation of the school building; if practicable, students should be allowed to wear outer garments and take along their personal belongings, and in some instances may be ordered to open their lockers for searches.
4. Students should be allowed back into the school only upon the authorization of the Superintendent, and/or his/her designee after he/she has consulted with police, fire or other emergency response team members;
5. Written reports of all bomb threat incidents should be prepared by the Building Principal and sent to the Superintendent.
6. Due to the number of lives at risk, all personnel should be instructed to treat all bomb threats seriously, no matter how remote actual danger may appear.
7. Any individual who has participated in making a bomb threat to the District shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law.

Miller Place Union Free School District
Miller Place, New York 11764
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All appropriate staff shall be given a copy of the procedures and the Superintendent shall ensure that all staff receives training on their respective roles and responsibilities in the event of a bomb threat.

The Superintendent must inform members of the Board and the parents/guardians of District students as soon as practicable after any incident that activates the school emergency management plan, along with actions taken to protect students, staff, and property. The Superintendent is also responsible for notifying the State Education Department of bomb threats in accordance with the requirements and regulations established by the State Education Department and the Commissioner of Education.

As stated above, Section 240.55 of the Penal Law states that any person who, knowing the information to be false, initiates or circulates a false warning of an alleged occurrence or impending occurrence of a fire or explosion, or reports such information to an official or quasi-official agency that deals with emergencies, is guilty of a felony.

Reference: Education Law Section 807 (Fire Drills)
General Obligation Law Section 3-112
Penal Law Sections 240.55, 240.60, 240.61, 240.62
8 NYCRR Section 155.17

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