

RSU #63

- a. **NEPN/NSBA Code:** EBCC
- b. **Title:** Bomb Threats/Threats of Violence
- c. **Author:** Superintendent
- d. **Replaces Policy:**
- e. **Date Approved:** 09/23/2024 RSU #63
- f. **Date Previously Approved:** 10/23/2023
- g. **Policy Expiration:** Annual Review in Conjunction with Annual Review of Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- h. **Responsible for Review:** Superintendent, Administrators, & Policy Committee
- i. **Date Reviewed:** 09/18/2024 Superintendent
09/18/2024 Policy Committee
09/18/2024 Administrators
- j. **References:**
 - Legal Reference:** 18 USC §§ pg. 921; 8921
17-A M.R.S.A. § 210
20-A M.R.S.A. §§ pg. 263; 1001(9); 1001 (9-A);
1001 (17); 1001 (18)
Ch. 125 § 10.06 (Me. Dept. of Ed. Rules)
 - Cross Referenced Policies:** EBCA-Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
JKD-Suspension of Students
JKE-Expulsion of Students
JKF-Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities
JICIA-Weapons, Violence, and School Safety
JIC-Student Code of Conduct

k. Narrative:

The RSU #63 Board of Directors (the Board) recognizes that bomb threats and threats of violence are a significant concern to the school unit. Whether real and implemented, intended as a prank, or for some other purpose, a bomb threat/threat of violence represents a potential threat to the safety and welfare to students, staff, and the integrity of school property. Bomb threats/threats of violence disrupt the instructional program and learning environment as well as placing significant demands on school financial resources and public safety services. These effects occur even when such threats prove to be false.

Threats will be regarded as an extremely serious matter and treated accordingly. The Board directs the Superintendent to react promptly and appropriately to information concerning threats and to initiate or recommend suitable disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

I. Definitions:

- A. “Bomb” means an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, “Molotov cocktail”, or other destructive devices.
- B. “Look-alike bomb” means any apparatus or object that conveys the appearance of a bomb or other destructive device.
- C. “Bomb threat” is the communication, by any means, 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.
- D. “School premises” means any school property, vehicle, or location where any school activities may take place.
- E. “Threats of Violence” is the communication, by any means, that violence will take place on school premises.

II. Conduct Prohibited:

- A. No person will make or communicate, by any means, a threat that a bomb has been or will be placed on school premises. Because of the potential for evacuation of the school(s) and other disruption of school operations, placement of a bomb or “look-alike” bomb or device on school premises will be considered a threat for the purpose of this policy.
- B. No person will make or communicate, by any means, a threat that violence will take place on school premises.

III. Procedures:

The Superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb threats as part of the RSU #63 (the District) “Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan” (policy EBCA). These procedures are intended to inform administrators and staff of appropriate protocols to follow in the event a bomb threat/threat of violence is received and should include provisions to address:

- A. Assessment of the threat so a response in proportion to the given threat is taken to ensure safety of those concerned;
- B. Selection of evacuation routes, sites, alternate sites, and control measures in place to ensure proper and safe movement;
- C. Designation of primary and alternate individuals to be in charge of the evacuation, re-entry, and informing proper officials both within the District and law enforcement;
- D. Designation of primary and alternate individuals who will make the necessary notification calls and when those calls will be made. Development and posting of a list of those to be contacted with alternate individuals or offices as necessary;

- E. Development of a plan and designation of who will contact parents if it becomes necessary;
- F. Dissemination of the procedures to be followed and by whom to all staff members with responsibility to ensure the safety of all students and staff; and
- G. Provision of support services for students and staff during and after any bomb threat or event.

The Superintendent and his/her designee are responsible for overseeing a review or evaluation of bomb threat/threat of violence procedures prior to the annual approval of “RSU #63’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan” or following implementation of the procedure in response to a specific threat.

IV. Reporting of Bomb Threats/Threats of Violence will be as follows:

- A. A student who learns of a bomb threat, threat of violence, or the existence of a bomb on school premises must immediately report such information to the building Principal, teacher, staff, or other adult in a position of authority;
- B. A District employee who learns of a threat will immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with the District’s threat procedures as developed under Section III above, and inform the Principal who will notify the Superintendent of the threat;
- C. All bomb threats/threats of violence will be reported immediately to the local law enforcement authority by calling 911 at the Regional Communication Center.
- D. The Superintendent is responsible for reporting any bomb threat to the Department of Education within two (2) calendar school days of the incident. Reports will include the school within the District, the date and time of the threat, the medium used to communicate the threat, and whether or not the perpetrator(s) has/have been apprehended.

V. Student Disciplinary Consequences for making a bomb threat:

- A. Making a bomb threat is a crime under Maine law. Any student suspected of making a bomb threat will be reported to law enforcement authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. Apart from any penalty imposed by law, and without regard to the existence or status of criminal charges, a student who makes a bomb threat will be subject to the District disciplinary action.
- B. The administration may suspend and/or recommend for expulsion any student who makes a bomb threat. A student who has been identified through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process as having a disability and whose conduct in violation of this policy is related to the disability will be disciplined as provided by state law.

- C. The making of a bomb threat will be considered deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A MRSA p. 1001(9-A) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school.
- D. In addition, after a hearing by the Board, a student who is found to have brought a bomb to school will be expelled from the school for at least one year in accordance with 20-A MRSA p. 1001(9-A) and Policy JICIA, except that the Superintendent may modify the requirement based on individual circumstances after discussion with the Board.

VI. Student Disciplinary Consequences for making a threat of violence:

- A. Making a threat of violence is a crime under Maine law. Any student suspected of making a threat of violence will be reported to law enforcement authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. Apart from any penalty imposed by law, and without regard to the existence or status of criminal charges, a student who makes a threat of violence will be subject to the District disciplinary action.
 - B. The administration may suspend and/or recommend for expulsion any student who makes a threat of violence. A student who has been identified through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process as having a disability and whose conduct in violation of this policy is related to the disability will be disciplined as provided by state law.
 - C. Conduct which violates this policy is deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A MRSA § 1001(9) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of the school. Such conduct may also be grounds for expulsion under other provisions of 20-A MRSA § 1001(9 and 9-A) that specifically prohibit the use and possession of weapons, infractions of violence, and possession, furnishing, and trafficking of scheduled drugs.
- VII.** A student, who knowingly encourages, causes, aids, or assists another student in making or communicating a bomb threat/threat of violence, will be subject to the disciplinary consequences described in Section V and VI above.
- VIII.** A student, who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat/threat of violence, or the existence of a bomb or other destructive device in a school building, vehicle, or on school property, may be subject to disciplinary consequences, which may include suspension and/or expulsion.
- IX. Staff Disciplinary Consequences for Inappropriate Action:**
- A. A District employee who makes or communicates a bomb threat/threat of violence will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Disciplinary action will be consistent with the appropriate collective bargaining agreement, other employment agreements, and Board policies.

- B.** A District employee who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat, threat of violence, or the existence of a bomb on District property will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment as specified in Section IX (A) above.
- X.** The District reserves the right to bring a civil liability suit against any individual responsible for a violation of this policy and to seek restitution and other damages as permitted by law.
- XI.** Instructional time lost because of a bomb threat/threat of violence will be rescheduled at the earliest practicable opportunity, as determined by the Superintendent within parameters set by the Board. 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 school must be closed as required by law. It would be best to schedule the date as soon as practicable after the event, and not wait until the end of the school year. The Superintendent should take into consideration the terms of collective bargaining agreements, potential conflicts with holiday or vacation periods, or with planned school events and school bus schedules in determining an appropriate make-up date.
- XII.** All student handbooks will address the District's bomb threat/threat of violence policy and procedures and explain the educational consequences of threats. In addition, student handbooks will notify students and parents that bomb threats/threats of violence violate civil and criminal law and Board policy, and violators will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.