EASTCONN
Where Learning Comes to Life

PERSONNEL
Series 4000
Policy #4008.3.1

Bomb Threats

The EASTCONN Board of Directors recognizes that bomb threats are a significant concert to the schools. 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 EASTCONN Board of Directors directs the Executive Director of EASTCONN 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 premised will be considered a threat for the purpose of this policy.

It is also a violation of the EASTCONN Board of Directors 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 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.

B. Definitions

1. A **"bomb"** mans 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, school buses and any location where any school activities take place.

C. Development of Bomb Threat Procedures

The Executive Director of EASTCONN or his/her designee shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb threats as part of the EASTCONN's Crisis Response Plan. These procedures are intended to inform administrators and staff of appropriate protocols to follow in the event that a bomb threat is received and should include provisions to address:

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

The initial bomb threat procedure will be subject to approval by the EASTCONN Board of Directors. The EASTCONN Executive Director or his/her designee will be responsible for overseeing a review or evaluation of bomb threat procedures.

D. Reporting of Bomb Threats

A student who learns of a bomb threat or existence of a bomb on school premises must immediately report such information to the building principal, teacher, the School Resource Officer or other employee is a position of authority.

An employee of the school unit who learns of a bomb threat shall immediately inform the building administrator. The building administrator shall immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with EASTCONN's bomb threat procedure, as developed under Section C, and inform the EASTCONN Executive Director.

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

The EASTCONN Executive Director shall be responsible for reporting any bomb threat to the EASTCONN Board of Directors. Reports will include the name of the school, the date and time of the threat, the medium used to communicate the threat, and whether or not the perpetrators have been apprehended.

E. Student Discipline Consequences

Making a bomb threat is a crime. Any student suspected of making a bomb threat shall 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 shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The administration shall suspend and may recommend for expulsion any student who makes a bomb

threat.

F. Aiding Other Students in Making Bomb Threats

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

G. Failure to Report a Bomb Threat

A student who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat will be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Disciplinary action taken shall be consistent with collective bargaining agreements, other employment agreements and EASTCONN Board of Directors' policies.

A school system employee who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb on school premises will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

H. Staff Discipline Consequences

A school system employee who makes or communicates a bomb threat will be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities and will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Disciplinary action taken shall be consistent with collective bargaining agreements, other employment agreements and EASTCONN Board of Directors' policies.

I. Civil Liability

EASTCONN reserves the right to bring suit against any individual responsible for a violation of this polity and to seek restitution and other damages as permitted by law.

J. Lost Instructional Time

Instructional time lost as a result of a bomb threat will be rescheduled at the earliest appropriate opportunity as determined by the EASTCONN Executive Director within parameters set by the EASTCONNN Board of Directors.

Time lost may be rescheduled on a vacation day, or after what would normally be the last day of the school year, except on days when schools must be closed as required by law.

K. Notification Through Student Handbook

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

(cf. 5023.1.1 – Conduct and Discipline)

(cf. 5021.4.1 – Weapons and Dangerous Instruments)

(cf. 5003.3.1 – Crisis Management Plan)

(cf. 5003.5.1 – Student Safety)

(cf. 4008.2.1 – Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness)

(cf. 4008.4.1 – Fire Emergencies/Drills)

(cf. 4008.6.1 – Safe Schools)

Legal References:

18 U.S.C. §921;8921

A succinct, short version:

The EASTCONN Executive Director or his/her designee shall develop procedures to promote the safety of students and personnel in the event of a bomb threat.

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