

## **BOMB THREATS**

The Region Two Cooperative Board recognizes that bomb threats are a significant concern to Region Two. 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 Region Two Cooperative Board directs the 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 Region Two premises. Because of the potential for evacuation of Region Two and other disruption of school operations, placement of a bomb or of a "look-alike" bomb on Region Two premises will be considered a threat for the purpose of this policy.

It is also a violation of Cooperative Board policy to communicate by any means that any toxic or hazardous substance or material has been placed, or will be placed, on Region Two 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.

### **B. 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 Region Two premises, including possession or placement of a bomb or look-alike bomb on Region Two premises.

4. "Region Two premises" means any school property and any location where any school activities may take place.

### **C. Development of Bomb Threat Procedures**

The Director/designee shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to bomb threats as part of Region Two's Emergency Management 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 is necessary to ensure safety);
2. Building evacuation and re-entry (including selection of potential alternative sites for those who 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 Cooperative Board. The Director/designee will be responsible for overseeing a review or evaluation of bomb threat procedures prior to the Cooperative Board's required annual approval of Region Two's Emergency Management Plan, or following implementation of the procedure in response to a specific threat.

### **D. Reporting of Bomb Threats**

A student who learns of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb on Region Two premises must immediately report such information to the Director, instructor, or other employee in a position of authority.

An employee of Region Two who learns of a bomb threat shall immediately inform the Director/designee. The Director/designee shall immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff in accordance with Region Two's bomb threat procedure, as developed under Section C, and inform the Cooperative Board Chair of the threat.

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

The Director shall be responsible for reporting any bomb threat to the Department of Education within two business days of the incident. 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 Disciplinary Consequences**

Making a bomb threat is a crime under Maine law. 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 by Region Two.

The Director/designee may suspend and/or recommend for expulsion any student who makes a bomb threat. The making of a bomb threat will be considered deliberately disobedient and deliberately disorderly within the meaning of 20-A M.R.S.A. § 1001(9) and will be grounds for expulsion if found necessary for the peace and usefulness of Region Two.

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

A student who has been identified through the PET process as having a disability and whose conduct in violation of this policy, is related to the disability shall be disciplined as provided in Policy JKF.

### **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 or the existence of a bomb or other destructive device in a Region Two building or on Region Two property may be subject to disciplinary consequences, which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

#### **H. Staff Disciplinary Consequences**

A Region Two 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 Cooperative Board policies.

A Region Two 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.

#### **I. Civil Liability**

Region Two reserves the right to bring suit against any individual responsible for a violation of this policy 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 Director within parameters set by the Cooperative 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 schools must be closed as required by law.

#### **K. Notification through Student Handbook**

All student handbooks shall address the Region Two 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 Cooperative Board policy and civil and criminal law.

Legal References:

18 U.S.C. §§ 921; 8921

17-A M.R.S.A. § 210

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

Cross References:

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

Student Code of Conduct

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