

Bomb Threats

The North Canaan Board of Education recognizes that bomb threats are a significant concern to 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.

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 school and other disruption of school operations, placement of a bomb or of a "look-alike" bomb on school premises will be considered a threat for the purpose of this policy.

It is also a violation of Board 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 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.

The following three definitions of a bomb or bomb threat apply: 1. A bomb is an explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, "Molotov cocktail" or other destructive device. 2. A look-alike bomb is 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 or look-alike bomb has been, or will be placed on school premises. This includes possession or placement of a bomb or look-alike bomb on school premises.

Development of a Procedure

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for developing and implementing procedures specific to responding to a threat as part of the School Safety Plan. These procedures are intended to inform administrators and staff of appropriate protocols to follow in the event that a bomb threat is received.

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.

Reporting of Bomb Threats

A student who learns of a bomb threat or the existence of a bomb on school premises must immediately report such information to the building principal, teacher, or other employee in 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 the District's bomb threat procedure, as developed in the School Safety Plan, and inform the Superintendent of the threat.

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

The Superintendent shall be responsible for reporting any bomb threat to the Board of Education. 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.

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 of 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. In addition, any student who knowingly encourages, causes, aids, fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat, or assists another student in making or communicating a bomb threat shall be subject to the same disciplinary consequences.

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 Board 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.

Civil Liability

The District 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.

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 Principal within parameters set by the Board.

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.

Notification Through Student Handbook

All student handbooks shall address the District'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 Board policy and civil and criminal law.

Legal References: 18 U.S.C.921; 8921

Adopted: December 9, 2014

Revised: April 20, 2021

NORTH CANAAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

North Canaan, Connecticut