

BOMB THREAT POLICY

A. **Purpose.** The Mountain Iron-Buhl School District regards the existence or use of bombs on a school location, or the threat of such, as an extremely serious matter. Whether real or intended as a prank, the use or existence of a bomb, or the threat of such, represents a potential danger to the safety and welfare of students, staff, and school property.

B. **Definitions.** A “bomb” is an explosive, explosive device or any incendiary device that can be detonated by impact, proximity to an object, a timing mechanism, a fuse, by lighting or igniting, or by other means. Though not actually a bomb, any device that conveys the appearance of a bomb or other destructive device shall constitute a bomb as contemplated by this policy. Any disabled or inactive bombs or destructive devices shall also constitute a bomb as contemplated by this policy. For the purposes of this policy, a “Molotov cocktail” is also considered a bomb.

A “school location” includes any school building or grounds, whether leased, rented, owned or controlled by the school district, locations and sites of school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, all locations where school-related functions are conducted, and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction or aegis of the school district.

C. **Conduct Prohibited.** No person, including students or staff, shall make, or communicate by any means a threat that a bomb has been or will be placed at a school location. Said threats include, but are not limited to: verbal threats, non-verbal threats, written threats, electronic threats, Internet-related threats, threats found on social networking websites, the use of pictures or drawings to convey a threat, threats made over the telephone, and threats made via text messaging.

The threat alone that a bomb has been or will be placed at a school location violates this policy and subjects the threat-maker to discipline. The actual presence of a bomb at a school location is not necessary for discipline under this policy.

Any person, including students or staff, who knowingly encourages, causes, aids or assists another in making or communicating a bomb threat shall be subject to the same disciplinary consequences as if said person had made the threat themselves and as further outlined in Section E of this policy.

In addition to bomb threats, the actual use or placement of a bomb at a school location constitutes a violation of this policy, and the user or responsible person shall be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined herein, as well as criminal charges. Any person, including students or staff, who encourages, causes, aids or assists another in the actual use or placement of a bomb at a school location, shall be subject to the same disciplinary consequences as if said person had placed or used the bomb themselves at a school location.

Any bomb threat, or the use or placement of a bomb at a school location is in direct violation of this policy. Bomb threats or the use or placement of a bomb at a school location constitutes conduct that significantly disrupts the rights of others to an education and prevents the ability of school personnel to perform their duties. Bomb threats or the use or placement of a bomb at a school location also constitutes conduct that endangers the safety or well being of pupils, surrounding persons, school district employees and school property.

D. Reporting Bomb Threats. Any student who learns of a bomb threat or the use or existence of a bomb at a school location must immediately notify and report such information to the school's Superintendent, the building Principal, a teacher, or any other employee in a position of authority. Any student who fails to report information or knowledge of a bomb threat or the use or existence of a bomb at a school location may be subject to disciplinary consequences, which may include suspension and/or expulsion.

A staff member who learns of a bomb threat or the use or existence of a bomb at a school location shall immediately inform building administration. Staff members may acquire such information from a student and said staff member is obligated to immediately inform building administration of all such information conveyed by the student. Building administration shall immediately take appropriate steps to protect the safety of students and staff and shall use the procedures outlined in Section F. Any staff member who fails to report information or knowledge relating to a bomb threat or the use or existence of a bomb at a school location will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment.

All bomb threats or the use or existence of a bomb at a school location shall be reported immediately to local law enforcement.

E. Discipline and Consequences. Due to the extremely serious nature of bomb threats or the use or existence of a bomb at a school location and the significant disruption that such bombs, or threats of such, cause on the educational environment, the Mountain Iron-Buhl School District takes a zero tolerance approach when it comes to the use or existence of a bomb or bomb threats at a school location.

The making of a bomb threat is a criminal offense and constitutes a terroristic threat in violation of Minnesota Statute § 609.713 Subd. 2 and law enforcement will be notified of such threat immediately. In the event that a bomb is placed or is detonated at a school location, said user or responsible person shall be subject to appropriate criminal charges.

Any staff member who is found to have engaged in any conduct prohibited by this Bomb Threat Policy will be reported to law enforcement and will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of employment.

Any student who is found to have used or placed a bomb at a school location, or made a threat about doing so, or any student who knowingly encourages, causes, aids or assists another in doing so, shall be immediately suspended pending further investigation and then shall be proposed for expulsion for up to one year. Due to this zero tolerance policy, the student shall be proposed for expulsion for up to one year, even if it is the student's first offense, as noted in the school district's discipline policy. Other disciplinary options or procedures may be used if said conduct is exhibited by a special education student and their conduct is found to be a manifestation of their disability.

F. Procedures.

- i.) In the event that a bomb threat is made via a telephone call, the person receiving the call shall attempt to query the caller as to a description of the bomb, where it is located and when it is expected to explode or detonate. The person receiving the call shall attempt to identify background noises, note any distinguishing voice characteristics of the threat maker and attempt to determine the caller's knowledge of the facility.
- ii.) Students and staff members shall notify and report any bomb threats or the use or existence of a bomb at a school location as required by Section D, above.
- iii.) Administration shall immediately notify law enforcement of any bomb threats or the use or existence of a bomb at a school location.
- iv.) School officials or staff members will work with law enforcement to assess the risk posed to students and staff and shall work with law enforcement to ascertain the identity of the threat maker or person who is responsible for the use or placement of a bomb at a school location. School officials or staff members shall follow the recommendations of law enforcement.
- v.) If the circumstances warrant such, the school may be evacuated to assure the safety of student and staff members.
- vi.) If a bomb is located, students, staff or school officials shall not touch said device, but shall rather defer to law enforcement and/or their bomb units.
- vii.) If a bomb is detonated, all emergency/crisis policies and procedures shall be followed.

G. Civil / Criminal Liability. The Mountain Iron-Buhl School District reserves the right to bring a civil suit against any individual responsible for a violation of this policy in order to seek damages as permitted by law.

The Mountain Iron-Buhl School District also reserves the right to seek restitution in the event that any person responsible for a violation of this policy is convicted of a criminal offense arising out of a bomb threat or the use or placement of a bomb at a school

location. All incidents pertaining to bomb threats or the use or placement of a bomb at a school location, will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

H. 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 Superintendent within the parameters set by the Mountain Iron-Buhl School 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 school must be closed as required by law.

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Board Adopted: November 8, 2010

Revised: