

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

Policy Name BOMB THREAT RESPONSE

532

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RATIONALE

Staff, students, and visitors in Ontario's schools have the right to learn, work, and be present in a safe and secure environment. To enhance safety and security, it is important that schools have plans for responding to bomb threats. According to the RCMP, the overwhelming majority of reported bomb threats are unfounded, but some are not. Care must be taken, therefore, to deal with each incident calmly and consistently.

POLICY

The Ministry of Education, school boards, and police services continue to work in partnership to create safe school environments. This work includes planning and preparation in the event that a bomb threat is received, an explosive device is discovered, or an explosives incident takes place.

All school boards in Ontario must establish a bomb threat response policy to ensure the development and implementation of individual school plans.

Plans and procedures for bomb threat response must be included in the school's Emergency Procedures Plan which is appended to the Superior Greenstone DSB Police Protocol – Appendix C: Provincial Policy for Developing and Maintaining Bomb Threat Procedures for Elementary and Secondary Schools in Ontario.

The board must ensure that its staff, students, and other partners are aware of their obligations/responsibilities within the individual school plans.

The principal or designate of each school is responsible for the overall development and final content of the individual school plan. The principal or designate is also responsible for inviting police, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS) to participate in plan development and for making them aware of planning and drills; for the training of staff and students; and for the overall safety of staff and students. The principal or designate must be completely familiar with the school's bomb threat plan with the scope of the authority vested in, and the responsibilities associated with, the principal's position as defined in the plan.

In the event of a bomb threat, the person receiving the bomb threat must contact the police (911), inform administration and complete the **Response to Bomb Threat** (Appendix A).

As many schools have licensed child care centres and/or other tenants and community groups using school premises, sometimes outside of regular school hours, those organizations or individuals must be taken into consideration at all stages, including planning, training, and drills, and they must be informed of the need to follow bomb threat response procedures. Principals must make best efforts to ensure that the appropriate staff from organizations sharing school facilities are included in the development and implementation of bomb threat response procedures and that these organizations participate in relevant aspects of planning, training, and drills, whenever possible.