

## ORANGE-WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION

### South Royalton School

#### THREATS AND DISRUPTIONS TO SCHOOL OPERATIONS POLICY

##### I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Royalton School District to respond quickly and effectively to any threat to the safety of its students and staff. As a result, it has adopted the following provisions that its personnel are directed to follow in order to prepare for, respond to, and follow up on the communication of any threat that a destructive device or any unauthorized hazardous substance or material has been or will be placed on school grounds.

##### II. CONDUCT PROHIBITED

It is a violation of this policy for any person to make, issue, or otherwise communicate by any means, a threat that a destructive device (bomb threat) has been or will be placed on school grounds or property. The issuance or communication by any means of a threat that an unauthorized hazardous substance or material has been placed or will be placed on school grounds with the intent to disrupt the operations of the school district is strictly prohibited. It is a violation of this policy for any person to knowingly place or install a hoax device on school grounds or property.

##### III. DEFINITIONS

###### A. Definitions.

1. "Destructive device" means any (a) explosive, incendiary or poison gas

bomb; or (b) explosive, incendiary or poison gas grenade; or (c) explosive, incendiary or poison gas rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, or (d) explosive, incendiary or poison gas missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter (1/4) ounce; or (e) explosive, incendiary or poison gas mine; or (f) device which consists of or includes a breakable container including a flammable or liquid compound, and a wick composed of any material which, when ignited, is capable of igniting the flammable liquid or compound, and can be carried or thrown by one individual acting alone; or (g) device similar to those devices enumerated in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this section.

2. "Hoax device" means any device so designed, assembled, fabricated or

manufactured as to convey the physical appearance of an explosive or incendiary bomb or the physical appearance of any of the devices enumerated in subdivisions (a)-(f) of division 1. of this section, which is lacking an explosive or incendiary charge.

3. "School grounds or property" means: facilities, buildings, fields, and grounds

areas; vehicles owned, leased or used by the District to transport students to

and from school or school activities; parking lots (including vehicles in the

parking lots); or any other setting which is under the permanent

or temporary supervision and/or control of the School District.

4. "Threat" means the written (including electronic mail) or oral expression of the intent to inflict injury or damage.

#### IV. INVESTIGATION

The superintendent and principal, and all other school personnel, shall cooperate with law enforcement personnel involved in investigating a bomb threat or other threats covered by this policy. School personnel shall not conduct any investigation independently but rather in conjunction with law enforcement authorities.

#### V. SANCTIONS

##### A. Discipline.

1. A student violating this policy, in addition to any penalty imposed by law, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the school.

2. The student may be suspended until a school board hearing can be conducted (following the due process procedures as set forth in the School District Policy (F14) on Discipline for Students).

3. A student found by the Board, after a hearing, to have committed a violation of this policy shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year. However, the Board may modify the expulsion on a case-by-case basis when it finds circumstances such as, but not limited to,

- a. the student was unaware of their conduct;
- b. the student is disabled and the conduct is related to the disability; or
- c. a lengthy expulsion would not serve the best interests of the student.

4. A staff member found to have violated this policy would be subject to

appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Disciplinary action taken in accordance with this subsection shall be consistent with collective bargaining agreements, applicable employment agreements, and/or school district policies.

B. Civil Liability. The School District reserves the right to bring a suit against

any individual responsible for a violation of this policy and to seek restitution and other damages as permitted by la

## VI. NOTIFICATION AND TRAINING

A. Policy Dissemination. A copy of this policy shall be included in all school

handbooks. In addition, handbooks for faculty, staff, parents, and students shall contain the following provision.

The Royalton School District has adopted a comprehensive policy on

what to do in the event of a bomb threat or threats to disrupt school operations. You may obtain a copy of the complete policy by requesting one from the principal's office.

While the School District intends to respect the legitimate privacy interests

of all persons, it is lawful for school authorities within constitutional boundaries to conduct reasonable examination of personal property on school grounds, including but not limited to lockers, desks, backpacks, book bags, and automobiles. In the event of a bomb threat or other threats, the School District may have to search such items in order to assure the safety and protection of people and property.

It is important for members of the school community to know that any

academic time lost as a result of a bomb threat; or other threats intended to disrupt

school operations, will be rescheduled, either on a weekend, vacation day, or following what would otherwise be the end of the school year.

In addition, under State law, the making of a bomb threat is a very serious criminal offense, punishable for even a first offense by as much as 2 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. The making of such a threat may also lead to civil liability.

B. Training. The administration shall develop a method of reviewing and discussing this policy with students and employees.

## VII. PROCEDURES

The administration shall develop comprehensive procedures designed to inform staff of appropriate responses, procedures and protocols to follow up on the receipt of a bomb threat or other threats intended to disrupt school operations; the coordination of responses with local safety and law enforcement agencies; building searches; and communications with the school community and the media.

Date Warned: May 26, 2000, April 4, 2000

Date Reviewed: May 2, 2000

Date Adopted: June 6, 2000

Cross Reference: