

**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Incident:** Weapons Complaint Arrest**Date:** January 13, 2025**Location:** Verplanck Elementary School**Manchester, CT**

On Monday, January 13, 2025, at approximately 1:18 p.m., the Manchester Police Department responded to a suspicious person at Verplanck Elementary School following reports of an armed individual near the playground. The suspect, described as a male dressed in all black, carrying a duffle bag and a rifle, was observed at the rear of the school. Witnesses reported the individual pointing the rifle at the school, into classroom windows, and at students and staff.

The first responding officer quickly located the individual, still holding the rifle. The officer issued repeated commands for the individual to drop the weapon and get on the ground. After several commands, the individual complied and was taken into custody without incident.

The individual, identified as a 17-year-old from Manchester, stated he intended to commit "suicide by cop." During the investigation, it was determined that the suspect pointed the weapon, a rifle-style airsoft gun, at 29 children and 10 adults on the school grounds.

The suspect has been charged with multiple offenses, including:

- **Threatening in the First Degree (C.G.S. 53a-61aa)**
- **Reckless Endangerment (39 counts, C.G.S. 53a-63)**
- **Breach of Peace in the Second Degree (40 counts, C.G.S. 53a-181)**
- **Possession of a Weapon on School Grounds (C.G.S. 53a-217b)**
- **Carrying a Dangerous Weapon (C.G.S. 53-206)**
- **Illegal Use of a Facsimile Firearm (C.G.S. 53-206c(c))**
- **Risk of Injury (29 counts, C.G.S. 53-21)**



Airsoft Rifle in Suspects Possession

The juvenile's identity will not be released due to his age.

We are thankful for our officers' swift and professional actions, which prevented what could have been a devastating incident. The Manchester Police Department would like to commend the faculty and staff of Verplanck Elementary School for their cooperation and courage during this stressful situation. The investigation remains ongoing. We urge anyone with additional information to contact the Manchester Police Department.

**XXX**

**Lieutenant Nicholas Reinert**

Public Information Officer

Office: (860) 645-5532

Headquarters: (860) 645-5500

Fax: (860) 643-3335

Email: [reinertn@manchesterct.gov](mailto:reinertn@manchesterct.gov)

Manchester Police Department 239 Middle Tpke E, Manchester, CT 06040

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