

Gloucester Public Schools

Our mission is for all students to be successful, engaged, lifelong learners

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of an allegation of sexual assault brought forward by a female student regarding one of our staff members. The alleged incident is said to have occurred in the past, but was related to a staff member yesterday (Monday) morning.

In accordance with established policies and protocols, the school's/district's response to these allegations and the sequence of actions for that response are as follows:

- The staff member has been placed on Administrative Leave pending an investigation;
- The Gloucester Police Department has been notified;
- Upon learning of the allegation, we immediately began an investigation and took steps to ensure both the physical and emotional well-being of the student while the investigation is pending. We will continue conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation of the allegation in coordination with the Gloucester Police Department;
- The school has filed a 51A (suspected child abuse or neglect) with the Department of Children and Families (DCF);
- The parents of the student have been notified of the allegation.

The purpose of this letter is to ensure that you learned of this incident directly from me and to inform you, again directly, of the Gloucester Public Schools' prompt response to any concern that may impact the safety of our students. I want to express my gratitude to the high school staff and the Gloucester Police Department, who are responding to this matter promptly and professionally to ensure the protection of the health and safety of all of our students. At this time, this matter is still under investigation and I have shared all of the information that state and federal laws regarding student and employee privacy permit me to share. School staff and I, in conjunction with the Gloucester Police Department, will continue to promptly and proactively address any allegation that would compromise the safety and well-being of our students and ask that you join us in this effort by speaking with your children about these concerns and the importance of immediately reporting any suspicious activity that would jeopardize the safety of our students or school community.

We understand how difficult it is for a student to come forward and express such concerns, and whenever or wherever such a circumstance might occur, we encourage students to do so.

Signed,

Richard Safier