



February 11, 2025

Hello, Prairie Park Staff and Families,

We are reaching out to connect with you today as we navigate the next steps at Prairie Park Elementary. As always, our priority remains the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community.

I had the opportunity to share time at Prairie Park today and was inspired to see students and staff engaging in learning activities together in a calm and nurturing school environment. The care and support for one another was evident.

We appreciate your patience and partnership during this extremely difficult situation and look forward to sharing more information by the end of the week.

We understand that you have questions, and we want to provide clear and accurate information. Since this is an ongoing Lawrence Police Department investigation, we want to make you aware of their announcement today. Please see the attached Lawrence Police Department's news release. The police have expanded the scope of their investigation to include students not receiving speech and language services.

Our law enforcement partners request Prairie Park families talk to their children about possible contact with Mark Gridley. Should concerns arise during those conversations, please contact them at (785) 830-7430.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. We are committed to keeping you informed and will share more information as soon as we are able.

Sincerely,

Jeanice Kerr Swift  
Interim Superintendent  
Lawrence Public Schools



# Lawrence Kansas Police Department

## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Contact: [LPDmedia@LKPD.org](mailto:LPDmedia@LKPD.org)

## Update on Investigation into Alleged Sexual Assaults at Elementary School

**Lawrence, KS** – We are providing the following updates to the investigation into Mark Gridley and the sexual assaults that took place at Prairie Park Elementary School:

- We can confirm that there are more than two victims in this investigation. We are not able to provide an exact number. Each parental concern brought to our attention must be fully investigated, which takes time. Our team of investigators, in conjunction with experts from the Children's Advocacy Center of Douglas County, are working to investigate all information we receive. We are committed to assigning the resources to each family to ensure they are getting the proper support they need.
- The scope of the investigation has now expanded to include students who were not receiving services for speech at the school. We are asking for parents of students at Prairie Park Elementary School to have a conversation with their children about any possible contact with Mark Gridley. Should concerns arise at any point in those conversations, we ask that parents stop the conversation and contact the investigations hotline set up for this investigation at (785) 830-7430.

As a reminder, the Lawrence Police Department is working closely with the Douglas County District Attorney's Office and USD 497 to work through this investigation. We will provide more information as we are able.

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