



EAST GREENWICH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

East Greenwich Public Schools

111 Peirce Street ■ East Greenwich, RI 02818

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Good Afternoon EGPS,

I'm following up on the message I sent last night at approximately 10:15 P.M.

As a human being, a husband, a dad, and the Superintendent of Schools in East Greenwich, I would never allow anyone, student or adult, to come to school if there was a credible threat. Period. I expect the same from my own children's school leadership.

I can tell you that there was an altercation between two students at our middle school yesterday. Subsequently, a rumor about school violence surfaced. Our Cole school staff promptly investigated this, conducted a risk assessment, and informed the student's parents. As a result of these efforts, this rumor was deemed to be unfounded.

Last night, an alarming message was circulated on Snapchat and also brought to our attention. The East Greenwich Police Department (in haste last night, I typed EGPS) thoroughly investigated this as well, and it was determined that this, too, was not a credible threat.

Had there been any evidence of a credible threat in either circumstance, we would have made a different decision about school operations in East Greenwich.

Throughout the day today, I've heard from several families asking what disciplinary measures are being taken. Discipline, like student assessments, is an educational record subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In the same way that I cannot share student grades without the family's express permission, I cannot share what disciplinary actions, if any, are being contemplated in this situation or any others. That said, we will consistently follow the student code of conduct and any applicable state or federal law.

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I know this is a scary time to drop our children off at school. We must work together to ensure the safety of everyone in our community. As the Superintendent of Schools in East Greenwich, I will make the best decisions I can with the information I have regarding safety, first and foremost. In addition, I will always tell the truth and be as transparent as the law allows me to be.

I wish you all a restful weekend!

Gratefully,



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