



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

October 6, 2021

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Families,

Elizabeth Public Schools is committed to ensuring every child achieves excellence, which begins with creating safe and caring environments in which students can learn and perform at their best.

I was alerted this morning to an incident taking place yesterday afternoon following dismissal in which a student of JVJ Stem Academy was the target of an assault by another student while heading home. While the motivation of the assault remains unclear, we are currently working with the Elizabeth Police Department to provide as much information as possible and are acting according to their recommendations and direction.

Students who engage in fighting, participate in behavior that leads to a fight, or provoke a fight to take place will be suspended, possibly subjected to an HIB investigation, and potentially referred to the Elizabeth Police Department for further investigation. Those who fight, make threats, or make threats that include mentions of weapons will be dealt with as severely as we are legally allowed, guided by the district's Code of Conduct.

If students fight on Elizabeth Public Schools grounds, or on the way to school or home, they will be suspended for up to ten days, or if warranted, a long-term suspension. In cases that warrant it, we will involve the Elizabeth Police Department and file charges.

As members of the Elizabeth Public Schools professional learning community, we must serve as upstanders and remain vigilant in keeping our schools and administrative offices safe. Maintaining safe and caring environments is a responsibility we collectively share. I encourage you to continually discuss with your children the importance of being respectful, kind, and compassionate to their peers and our school and administrative team members.

If you saw or heard any activity related to the incident mentioned above, please call the Elizabeth Police Department at 908-558-2000.

Thank you for your continued support of Elizabeth Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools