



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

October 12, 2021

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Families,

Elizabeth Public Schools remains strongly committed to creating environments for students and team members that promote social, intellectual, and physical wellness while ensuring safety and security for all those who learn and work within them.

During the past week there were two incidents of violence involving Elizabeth students. While the incidents did NOT take place in school, on school property, or during school hours, I felt compelled to share these incidents to emphatically state that acts of violence that affect the health and wellbeing of students and team members should not and will not be tolerated.

On Tuesday, a freshman at JVJ STEM Academy School No. 92 was assaulted on his way home by another student. The district provided video and assisted in the Elizabeth Police Department's investigation. The aggressor in that incident has been arrested, charged, and will no longer be an Elizabeth Public Schools student.

On Friday, a student at Thomas J. Edison Career & Technical Academy was assaulted on his way home by other students. The district has provided video and still photos and is assisting the EPD in its investigation. The police anticipate making arrests related to this incident as well.

In both cases, the victims required medical attention and fortunately are now recovering at home.

Elizabeth Public Schools has a zero-tolerance policy for violence and will act swiftly and definitively in coordination with law enforcement agencies, as demonstrated by the arrest and removal from school of the apprehended student. We work closely with the Elizabeth Police Department and other law enforcement agencies, acting accordingly to their recommendations and direction.

The return to in-person learning for all students this fall has been a very successful endeavor, thanks to the dedication and determination of the members of our learning community who are committed to teaching and learning and our promise of every child achieving excellence. We must not allow the heinous acts of a few students who do not share in that commitment to tarnish the great strides we are making in reclaiming excellence for our students and their families as we continue to recover from the unprecedented effects of the pandemic.

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**

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In our efforts to uphold that commitment and to maintain safe and caring environments, beginning Tuesday, all high school academies will have increased security at dismissal for the foreseeable future. All high school principals will hold a meeting on Tuesday with team members and students to review all disciplinary and legal consequences in accordance with district policy.

The district will take any legal means necessary to permanently remove from our high schools students that exhibit behaviors constituting a danger to the well-being of other students.

I am urging parents to talk to their children and if they have any information that could be of help to please contact the Elizabeth Police Department at 908-558-2000.

Thank you for your continued support of Elizabeth Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer