



Education Services Center. 5776 S. Crocker Street. Littleton, Colorado 80120. 303.347.3300.

September 9, 2014

Dear LPS Parents and Staff:

I'm pleased to report that the 2014-2015 school year is off to a great start! Students and teachers are hard at work, and we continue to see that hard work pay off.

I'm proud to tell you that Littleton Public Schools has received the rating of Accredited with Distinction from the Colorado Department of Education for the fifth straight year! Accredited with Distinction is the highest accreditation rating given and is reserved for the state's top performing school districts. LPS is the only school district in the Denver metro area to be Accredited with Distinction for five years. I cannot stress enough how significant this is. Earning this rating is very difficult, which is why it is so rare. To be able to earn this prestigious rating five years in a row is truly remarkable. This kind of academic achievement year after year is something we should all be proud of. This community's support for education is the reason why LPS continues to be the top achieving school district in the Denver metro area.

While the academic achievement of our students is impressive, nothing is more important than the safety and welfare of our students and families -- physically, socially, and emotionally. These are complex issues that are challenging for parents, for communities, and for schools. As part of our commitment to you, LPS has implemented some significant changes for the 2014-2015 school year. We have partnered with the Littleton Police Department and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office to increase the number of School Resource Officers in our schools. In addition, enhanced security measures are included in the 2013 Bond Program, which voters approved last November. Thank you for supporting your schools!

Educating students and preparing them to succeed after they graduate from high school is our work. Sometimes, however, we recognize that there is more to do. There are times when parents and community agencies need help supporting families in crisis. LPS staff, including mental health professionals, regularly assist families in crisis. They are called upon 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Safe 2 Tell, an anonymous reporting system, is in place districtwide. LPS recognizes that through behavioral risk and threat assessment, we can reduce the risk of violence in our schools. LPS is committed to being part of a larger community of mental health professionals. To that end, the LPS Board of Education has allocated an additional \$810,000 to increase the number of counselors, social workers, and psychologists in our schools.

I also want to take this opportunity to share with you some words I first wrote to you in a communication dated January 17, 2014:

"The events of December 13 are still fresh in the hearts and minds of many. Recently there has been a lot of communication within our community. Some of these discussions are taking place online and are being reported through newspapers and TV stations. This is to be expected. Much of the conversation, however, is based on inaccurate information, rumor, and innuendo. I would encourage all Warriors to wait for the sheriff's investigation to come to a close before drawing conclusions. In a press release yesterday, the sheriff pointed out

that his department is still in the midst of a complete investigation. As such, LPS cannot participate in public discussion of what occurred. The sheriff is the spokesperson for the investigation and is the only accurate source for information. I ask that we keep LPS strong by respecting the privacy of all in our community. Doing so will preserve the honor and integrity of our schools. We will not allow others to distract us from the important work of teaching and learning. I will continue to keep you updated of information the district can provide.”

While this message was first sent to you nearly eight months ago, the circumstances have not changed. The Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office will release its report regarding December 13, 2013 sometime this year. Until then, the investigation remains ongoing. As I’ve said before, LPS has the ability to communicate accurate information to all of you directly, and we have a legal and ethical commitment to the privacy of our community. Additionally, you will recall my position that we will never publicly discuss safety and security measures as that puts our students, faculty and families more at risk. LPS has strong relationships with our community and local media. We will not, however, participate in creating controversy that compromises student safety and privacy. We are committed to continuous improvement in all areas, which provides students with a safe and healthy place in which to learn and work. Nothing is more important.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your schools.

Sincerely,

Scott Murphy
Superintendent
Littleton Public Schools