



Ms. Gail Lanza
Acting Superintendent of Schools

STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
251 Sterling Road
Sterling, CT 06377

TELEPHONE: (860) 564-4219
FAX: (860) 564-1989

March 29, 2018

Dear Parents:

I am writing to address a safety concern at Sterling Community School. As you may be aware, there have been recent social media posts related to an allegation that a Sterling student would be bringing a gun to school. The Board takes any threat to student safety seriously and school district officials promptly reported the concern to the State Police Troop D. The district has since been informed by State Police that the report arose from a previous issue that was resolved during the last school year. We are thankful for the prompt and thorough actions of the police in investigating the concern. We have no current reports related to the possession of weapons in school.

Recent incidents of school violence have shaken the nation, and we understand that students and parents alike are appropriately worried about any report of a weapon on school property. I want to assure you that threats of any nature and reports of weapons in our school are immediately addressed. The safety of the children in our community is the district's priority consideration. The Board has adopted many policies and procedures designed to promote the safety of our campus. For example, the district has policies concerning student conduct. These policies can be accessed on-line at www.sterlingschool.org. The district has also developed and implemented an all-hazards district security and safety plan to bolster its existing emergency preparedness, response capability and school safety and security measures and to best meet all-hazards threats.

Given the media coverage of this safety concern, as well as the extensive coverage of national tragedies, we are asking that parents speak with their children to ensure that all children know how to express any concerns or anxiety that they may have, and also the specific individuals to whom they may speak within the school about any safety concerns. Students may report any information about weapons or threats to our community to the Principal, social worker, school psychologist or to any teacher. Any reports received will be investigated in accordance with district policy. The district's response to any allegation of a weapon on campus includes a thorough investigation and discipline for students found to be in violation of Board policy. Ultimately, our goal is to promote student safety and to ensure a comfortable and supportive environment for all students.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact Gail Lanza, Acting Superintendent of Schools, at glanza@sterlingschool.org or 860-564-4219 or Shari Ternowcheck, Principal, at sternowchek@sterlingschool.org or 860-564-2728 ext. 3202 to report any specific matters or to ask any questions about district policies and procedures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Lanza".

Gail Lanza
Acting Superintendent of Schools