

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

Late this afternoon, I was notified that on a routine search of a school bus, the driver found an empty .22 caliber firearm clip in the glove compartment. The item was immediately brought to my office where Dudley Police were waiting to investigate. It is very important to note the following:

- This particular bus was a spare that is utilized by *First Student* not just for Dudley-Charlton Regional School District transportation, but also for other schools, colleges, weddings, outings, etc.
- Because of the above, there is no indication of how long the clip was in the bus or by whom it was placed there. There is a strong likelihood that this had nothing to do with any of our students.

Despite the above two points, we have and will continue to follow our normal safety protocols and take every possible precaution. For example:

- Both the Dudley and Charlton Police Departments have been notified and will continue to investigate.
- All buses in both towns have been searched thoroughly and are ready to transport our students safely tomorrow morning.
- While there is truly no more reason for concern tomorrow than any other day, in order to provide an added layer of peace of mind for our students, staff and families, there will be an increased police presence in all of our schools tomorrow.
- As police continue to investigate, if any additional information that impacts student safety becomes available, I will share it with you in a timely fashion.

We are all on edge lately in the wake of the recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida. I, too, am a parent, and I love and worry about my kids like anyone else. Partly because I am a fellow parent, I understand the need to notify you of this and any other abnormal situation that affects our schools. But I know the people in our schools; I know the protocols we have in place; and I know the skill and professionalism of our police departments. I am extremely confident that we will have a safe and productive day of school tomorrow.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregg J. Desto".

Gregg J. Desto
Superintendent