



The Core Knowledge STEAM School of Choice

To Our BFA Community:

There has been much discussion, including emails, phone calls, open comments and conversation pertaining to a threat made by a 5th grade student last week while at school. I know many of you have emailed myself, the Board and Principal Simpson asking questions, demanding answers and sharing your opinions on discipline and procedures related thereto. You want answers. And we want to be able to provide those to you while operating within the bounds of the law.

The days preceding this letter have shown me that our Community cares deeply about the success and safety of the students who walk through our doors. It is that passion, dedication and commitment that makes BFA unique. I thank you all.

I want to start by expressing, on behalf of the entire Board, our support for Principal Simpson. BFA has been her home for 13 years. Her duties and responsibilities are too numerous to list, but one thing she does for certain is ensure that the students and staff are safe and cared for each day. She is empathetic, she is passionate and she is a human being. She enacts discipline to the fullest extent of what the law allows. We commend her leadership.

As I stated in last night's Board meeting, we want to be as transparent as possible with you about this situation while respecting our legal boundaries. For those of you who were unable to attend, please consider the following:

- We operate pursuant to a Charter Contract with DCSD. Copies of [DCSD Charter Contracts](#) are publicly available. Section 5.10 of that Contract is instructive on discipline, including Expulsion and Denial of Admission,
- BFA has a [discipline policy](#). Pursuant to our Charter Contract, we are permitted to create our own policies, but we must also abide by DCSD policies unless they are specifically waived. The [DCSD Code of Conduct](#) is publicly available and provides guidance for our school.
- We follow all school district safety and security protocols created and monitored by the school district.



- This Board sets policy for the school, in addition to other duties including financial oversight and strategic direction. Information on the Board is available on the BFA website under the [Board](#) page and the [Board Transparency](#) page.
- The Board does not have the power or ability to discipline students.
- Colorado Revised Statute [22-33-106](#) governs Suspension, Expulsion and Denial of Admission in Colorado schools.
- [FERPA](#) protects student privacy.

As I also said last night, we encourage everyone to research these important issues as we have done. It is important that we are all as knowledgeable as possible on the rules and laws which govern our school.

Although there is no guarantee that the Administration or this Board can provide to any of you that threats or violence will never happen again, we can consistently reiterate that we consider our school to be one of the safest in Douglas County. We have taken *many* measures (including the hiring of a full-time SRO as just one example) to reduce the probability of harm.

I hope we can all recognize the important role each of us plays in school safety. Our students, staff and parents are encouraged to say something *as soon as possible* should they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable, scared, nervous and especially if they hear of a threat or dangerous behavior. [Safe2Tell](#) is also an important resource each of us has access to *at all times*.

At Ben Franklin Academy, please be assured that safety remains and will always be a top priority for those who enter our buildings or step foot onto our property.

Sincerely,

Haley Maglieri  
Ben Franklin Academy  
Board President