

Communication

To: Baytown Head Start Center Parents and Guardians

From: James Colbert,
County School Superintendent

Date: May 2, 2016

Re: Incident that occurred Friday, April 29, 2016

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of an incident that occurred at Harris County Department of Education's Baytown Head Start Center this past Friday, April 29, 2016, and the prompt actions taken by our staff to ensure the safety of all students at the Baytown Head Start Center.

On Friday morning, the mother of one of our students arrived at the Baytown Head Start Center and reported to the Center Manager that, on the evening before, her child brought home a bag containing a very small amount of an unidentified substance from school. The child reported to the mother that she received the bag from another student at the Baytown Head Start Center.

The mother gave the bag to the Center Manager, who immediately contacted the Baytown Police Department to have the substance tested. Law enforcement completed its testing of the substance, and it was determined that the bag did contain an illegal substance.

Upon learning of this, the Center Manager contacted the appropriate authorities within the Department of Family and Protective Services system, to ensure a comprehensive investigation of this matter for the safety of all students at the center.

Fortunately, none of our students were harmed.

Because of the sensitivity surrounding a potential criminal investigation, our initial priority was to ensure the safety of our students and to ensure that the investigation was not compromised. Now that the initial investigation is complete, Children's Protective Services and Childcare Licensing are continuing their respective investigations into the matter.

Please know that I have directed our already-observant staff to be even more vigilant of the items that our students bring into and out of the center on a daily basis. Rest assured that the safety of our students is our top priority.

We will continue to apprise you should there be further developments in this matter that require your attention. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Venetia Peacock, HCDE's Area I Head Start Senior Director, at 713-679-2511.