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PRESS RELEASE

The Camden County Schools prohibit and will not tolerate any type of sexual assault among students. We have a number of policies to deal with such matters.

Federal and state laws prevent the school system from giving detailed information about student disciplinary matters. This includes allegations against students, investigations involving students and any discipline administered to students. This applies to any student making an allegation and any student accused of misconduct. Without commenting on the specific details of any particular case, I can provide some information about how these matters are generally handled.

Administration thoroughly investigates any and all allegations and reports of student misconduct.

Public school students, even when accused of serious misconduct, are protected by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of North Carolina. Students cannot be issued any serious discipline, including out-of-school suspension, without affording the accused student all the rights of due process required by law. This does not change just because of the seriousness of the alleged offense, or just because a student is arrested or charged with a crime. In the United States, students must be presumed innocent until they have been proven guilty. Student disciplinary proceedings cannot be pursued until sufficient evidence is provided to show that the student has committed a disciplinary violation. Administration must also consider and evaluate the evidence for and against the student.

Although I cannot comment on or reveal details about any individual case, I can say that the recent complaint mentioned in social media has been handled in accordance with Board policy by school administration. Appropriate actions have been taken to protect the accuser. Any suggestion that disciplinary action has been withheld because of the time remaining this semester is false.

We realize that it may be difficult for many people to understand why immediate action is not taken in every case. Rest assured, when the evidence from an investigation demonstrates that a student poses a threat to the safety of welfare of other students or staff, the Camden County Schools will take swift and appropriate action to protect all the other students in our school system. We hope that people will understand the limitations on the detail that we can disclose at this time as well as retain confidence that the Camden County Schools will take all necessary action to protect the safety of students.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Camden County Public Schools, in partnership with home and community, will educate all to be productive citizens in an ever-changing global society.