LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Superintendent's Office
21000 Education Court
Ashburn, VA 20148

Good evening, Dr. Coons,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to ask you to please review and correct your most recent news release, below? In the news release, you state, "Governor Youngkin issued Executive Order 28 in October 2023 following nine opioid-related drug overdoses at Loudoun County Schools." Since members of the Youngkin administration continue to incorrectly cite information concerning LCPS, it's important that I continue to correct the record. Specifically, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office reported four (https://www.loudoun.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=8729) school-connected overdoses at one school at the time of EO28's release. Not nine. And, for even greater clarity, these were suspected and not confirmed overdoses in terms of the information available to LCPS at the time.

I also ask that you correct information on page 3 of the model guidance. Specifically, the introduction states that LCPS did not notify parents until 20 days later. This is not true. I have shared similar information with others, including Attorney General Miyares in the attached letter, which should provide additional context for why this is incorrect. To this day we remain unclear where the "20 days later" comment comes from. And, frankly, I question why LCPS must specifically be named at all in VDOE's guidance or news release; I find this disappointing at best and am not at all clear on how this enhances the model guidance in any way. Misinformation should not be used to establish a compelling reason for the issuance of VDOE's guidance. The fact that there is legislation requiring it should be reason enough.

That said, I will say that while more students were reported to have OD'd at the time, as is noted in the Sheriff's information the majority happened outside of the school, which is why we pushed to expand legislation last year to report any juvenile overdoses, no matter where they occurred, to the entire community. LCPS will advocate for the same this year.

We all share the goal of ensuring accurate information and the safety of our students. While I understand any number of school-connected overdoses is concerning, accurate data and a broader, community-wide reporting mechanism is crucial for effective policy-making and results.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and we look forward to providing comment in the coming weeks on the model guidance.

Aaron

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Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Loudoun County Public Schools
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