

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ON THE GRAFTON STREET SCHOOL  
MERCURY SPILL RESPONSE  
October 29, 2010

Worcester Public Schools uses established emergency procedures and protocols to address safety-related events. I initiated a review of the district's response, including actions at the school, central office response, and notification of support agencies. The review revealed a breach of the Worcester Public Schools emergency procedures and protocols, including communication breaches after the initial report to central administration on Tuesday, September 21, 2010. The breaches affected both internal response and external support agency response. The district's full response to the incident was not enacted until Wednesday, September 22, 2010.

Consequently, I have taken action to address this breach and implemented corrective action to ensure that emergency procedures and protocols are followed, allowing us to maintain a focus on the safety of student and staff should future emergency situations arise. Additionally, review and revision of emergency procedures and protocols will occur within our Environmental Management System that is under development and in concert with the various support agencies.

I am most appreciative of the professionalism of the administrative team, teachers, and support staff at Grafton Street School during this incident. I must also thank parents and family for their cooperation during the incident and response. Finally, the support of the various city departments, state and federal agencies that coordinated the rapid mobilization and containment of the mercury spill must also be acknowledged. My commitment to safe and secure schools remains a very high priority and we will continue to improve our operations to maintain safe and secure schools.

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