



Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

Mary Skipper, Superintendent
Boston Public Schools
2300 Washington Street
Roxbury, MA 02119

July 18, 2025

Re: Public Safety Concerns at Orchard Gardens School

Dear Superintendent Skipper,

Thank you for attending the recent City Council policy briefing on education. It is always wonderful to hear from you and BPS leadership, and we appreciate your continued collaboration.

I am writing today regarding concerns I share with residents on public safety around Orchard Gardens School. The Orchard Gardens School is an innovative pilot school with a team of highly skilled educators, specific and rigorous goals for students, and works closely with community partners in the neighborhood.

In recent months, there have been reported instances of open-air drug dealing and drug use in the area. This follows years of issues along Albany Street, dating back to 2018 when students and families blocked traffic in protest of the continued discovery of drug paraphernalia and needles close to, and even on school property. While I understand these are complex challenges we face with this area given its close proximity to Mass and Cass, it's important that we work together to ensure that students, families, and staff feel safe as they arrive and leave school each day.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for prioritizing the well-being and safety of our students. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you on any steps that can be taken to address it. If you have any questions, please contact me at 617-635-3202, or at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, District 2