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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Shane L. Andrew, Superintendent



District Office
620 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida
32601-5498

www.sbac.edu
(352) 955-7300

Mission Statement: We are committed to the success of every student!

NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Jackie Johnson/(352) 955-7545

For Immediate Release
June 28, 2022

District will not move forward with clear backpack requirement for 2022-23

After hearing from families about the potential impact of a clear backpack requirement for middle and high school students, the district will NOT be moving forward with the requirement for the 2022-23 school year.

“Families have shared very strong concerns with me and Board members about the use of clear backpacks,” said Superintendent Shane Andrew. “I’ve spoken with Board members individually, with Chief Scott at GPD (Gainesville Police Department) and with Sheriff Watson at the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office, and they agree we should spend more time discussing this and other safety proposals.”

The original recommendation came out of meetings between district staff and representatives from GPD and ACSO about youth violence and school security. Andrew says those discussions will continue and that the district will be gathering more input from families, students, employees and other community partners about potential strategies to promote the safety of everyone on school campuses.

“These are very complicated issues, and there are no easy solutions,” said Andrew. “We need to work collaboratively to make sure our students and all citizens are safe in our schools and in the community.”

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