

UP CEO Statement on the November 10th, 2021 Incident Involving Two UP Academy Boston Scholars

Dear Members of the UP community,

My heart is heavy to write this message. As you may be aware, an UP Academy Boston 7th grader, and former UP Academy Holland student, was shot on Wednesday evening while with another UAB student. Thankfully, both students are physically okay, and the student who was shot is recovering with non life-threatening injuries. We are keeping these students and their families in our hearts and minds as they all recover from this tragedy, and are currently working with both families to ensure they have the support needed to heal.

While we recognize that two lives, two families were immediately impacted, our entire community is hurting from the trauma of this unfortunate situation. We know that in order to heal from trauma, we need to make space to have conversations with each other. The school's leadership team is addressing students about this unfortunate event on Friday morning, as well as providing comprehensive mental health support for our students and educators. We're enlisting additional social workers to support Friday and beyond. At this moment, meeting our students where they are and providing the social-emotional support they need to heal is critical.

This is never an easy message to share with our community. I hope you all find the time and space you need to heal from the pain of this trauma. If I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Conforme'.

Veronica Conforme, CEO
UP Education Network