

NEWS RELEASE

# Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Page 1 of 1

## **AG STRANGE PRESENTS HAYDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WITH 2014 ATTORNEY GENERAL'S SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Strange today presented Hayden Elementary School in Blount County with the 2014 Attorney General's Safe School Initiative Award of Excellence for Alabama State School District 6. One school was selected as the winner from each of the Alabama State School Board of Education districts.

"The Alabama Safe Schools Initiative Awards of Excellence are presented to schools that have performed exceptionally to provide a safe environment for students, with special emphasis on implementation of the Best Practices my office compiled based on last year's recipients," said Attorney General Strange. "I'm pleased that Hayden Elementary School was selected as one of the eight winning schools in Alabama for 2014. In making this decision, the judges noted many things that distinguished Hayden Elementary School: the purchase of a panic button lock-down system for the entire school, safety bags in classrooms, the use of an emergency notification system for parents and safety plan flip books, and the constant review of campus safety programs with changes implemented for safety based on these reviews. I am honored to personally present the safe schools award to Hayden Elementary School."

"We are excited to have our efforts to improve the safety and security of our students recognized," said Principal Shelley Vail-Smith. Many of the things that we have implemented were simple and cost nothing. Everything depends on having a faculty, staff and students who are willing to take ownership of the process."

Attorney General Strange is personally presenting the awards for the 2014 Awards of Excellence to the eight winning schools during the month of October. Other winning schools throughout the state include Orange Beach Elementary School in Baldwin County, Northington Elementary School in Tuscaloosa County, Lincoln High School in Talladega County, Meadow View Elementary School in Shelby County, Haleyville High School in Winston County, Beauregard Elementary School in Lee County and Oak Park Middle School in Morgan County.

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