

April 13, 2017

Steven T. Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



For More Information, contact:

Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

Page 1 of 1

**AG MARSHALL PRESENTS HELENA MIDDLE SCHOOL
WITH 2016 SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steven T. Marshall today presented Helena Middle School with the 2016 Attorney General’s Safe School Initiative Award of Excellence for Alabama State Board of Education District 3. Schools were selected as winners from seven* Alabama State School Board of Education districts, as well as private schools for two regions of the state.

“I am pleased to carry forward an important tradition of the Attorney General’s Office, to recognize schools throughout our state for dedication and excellence in keeping students safe,” said Attorney General Marshall. “Each day that parents leave their children at school, they are entrusting what they hold most precious into the care of schoolteachers, principals and other staff. With these awards, we honor those who have achieved particularly high standards and set examples that others may follow. We are grateful for their service and commitment to protecting the children of Alabama.”

“The Attorney General’s Office is proud that Helena Middle School was selected as one of the nine winning schools in Alabama for 2016,” said Attorney General Marshall. “In making this decision, judges noted many things that distinguished Helena Middle School: its tip line, practices of drills, safe zones, daily staff meetings, controlled access doors, participation of outside law enforcement agencies and extensive training for faculty and staff.”

“We are extremely honored to be receiving this prestigious award for the second year in a row,” said Principal Scott Knight. “This award is for our whole community. Student safety is a top priority for our mayor, city council, police, and fire departments. They do a great job supporting the schools in Helena. I am also proud of the work of our Assistant Principal Jennifer Cofer and School Resource Officer Ken Lowery on developing and implementing our school safety plan. Finally, a lot of credit goes to our faculty, staff, and students for recognizing the importance of our safety drills.”

Attorney General Marshall is presenting awards for the 2016 Safe School Awards of Excellence winners to the nine winning schools during April and May. Other winning schools throughout the state include Orange Beach Elementary School in Baldwin County, Opelika Middle School in Lee County; Pike County High School in Pike County, Moody Middle School in St. Clair County, Forest Hills Elementary School in Lauderdale County, Bob Jones High School in Madison County, Advent Episcopal School in Jefferson County and Coosa Valley Academy in Shelby County

**Alabama has eight public school districts but no submissions were received from District 4, nor was one received for a southern district private school.*

