

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG STRANGE PRESENTS OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH 2015 SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Strange today presented Oak Park Middle School in Decatur with the 2015 Attorney General’s Safe School Initiative Award of Excellence for Alabama State Board of Education District 6. Schools were selected as winners from seven* Alabama State School Board of Education districts, as well as three private schools for each region of the state.

“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 previous recipients,” said Attorney General Strange. “I’m pleased that Oak Park Middle School was selected as one of the 10 winning schools in Alabama for 2015. In making this decision, the judges noted many things that distinguished Oak Park Middle School: law enforcement collaboration including full interior video of the school and aerial photos taken by a police special response unit, special training to school personnel by the police special response unit, preventative collaboration with the local juvenile court system and implementation of the ‘Digital Citizenship Curriculum’ to address cyber bullying.”

“I firmly believe the first steps in any learning environment begins with a safe school,” said Principal Wes Black. “We’re delighted that Attorney General Strange has chosen to recognize our efforts at Oak Park and the Decatur City Schools. We also believe that just being presented this award is a reflection of the City of Decatur and our school system.”

The Attorney General’s Office is presenting awards for the 2015 Safe School Awards of Excellence winners to the 10 winning schools during April and May. Other winning schools throughout the state include Orange Beach Elementary School in Baldwin County, Opelika High School in Lee County, Hewitt-Trussville High School in Jefferson County, Monroe County High School in Monroe County, Cedar Hill Elementary School in Limestone County, Coosa Valley Academy in Shelby County, Helena Middle School in Shelby County, Riverhill School in Lauderdale County and Lakeside School in Barbour County.

**Alabama has eight public school districts but no submissions were received from District 4.*

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