



**AG MARSHALL ANNOUNCES ARRESTS OF STUDENT,
TEACHER, FOR FELONY COMPUTER TAMPERING BY
ALTERING GRADES AT SCHOOL IN ESCAMBIA COUNTY**

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Steve Marshall announced the arrests this week of a student and a teacher in Escambia County, each on a felony charge of computer tampering by altering grades at W.S. Neal High School in East Brewton. Matthew Hutchins, 18, of Brewton was arrested on May 14, and Lisa Odom, 58, of Castleberry was arrested on May 15.

The defendants were arrested by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office pursuant to warrants brought by Special Agents of the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office Cybercrime Unit initiated an investigation after being notified by local officials on May 11 that grades had been altered through the school's INow computer system. Prosecution will be handled by the Attorney General's Criminal Trials Division.

Attorney General Marshall thanked the Alabama State Department of Education, the Escambia County Board of Education, the 21st Circuit District Attorney's Office and the Escambia County Sheriff's Office for their continued assistance in this matter.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of one to 10 years for the charge, which is a class C felony.

Due to an ongoing investigation, no further information about the investigation or about the defendants' alleged crimes will be released at this time.

**A warrant is merely an accusation. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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