

**STATISTICAL  
ANALYSIS  
CENTER**



# **School Violence In Alabama**

**STATE OF ALABAMA  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER  
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# Preface

This report is a summary of the nature and extent of violent crimes reported in schools by local law enforcement agencies in Alabama. Because school violence affects teachers as well as students, both adult and juvenile victims and offenders will be included in this report.

Crime statistics for this report were compiled from offense reports submitted by law enforcement agencies statewide for the calendar year of 2000 to the State of Alabama's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, a division of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC).

For the purposes of this report, juvenile is defined as being 17 years of age or younger. School crime data was derived by compiling crime statistics where the premise noted by the reporting agency was "school." Colleges and universities for adult students were omitted from this report. Both public and private school data may be included, as reported by law enforcement.

# Introduction

There were 250 violent offenses\* reported to law enforcement in Alabama schools in the calendar year of 2000. School violence accounted for only 1% of the 22,084 violent offenses reported in the state that year. But with school shootings and other violent activities occurring on school premises making national news on a weekly basis, concerns about the safety of our nation's children are growing. Whether the news is about an honor student who is suspended for bringing a butter knife to school or about a junior high student who brings a gun to class, parents are growing more wary about sending their children off to school in the morning. More parents are choosing to home school their children, and school districts are installing metal detectors and implementing "zero tolerance" policies on weapons in school.

This report will provide accurate information regarding the nature and extent of violent offenses committed on school premises, the victims of these offenses, and the offenders who commit these acts. Also included will be breakdowns of school violence by county, weapons used, and the relationships between the victims and offenders. Although violent acts committed in schools often lead the national news, this report aspires to add perspective to these events by reporting the actual extent of violence in Alabama's schools.

The table below also includes simple assault numbers for Alabama schools. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program does not consider simple assault a violent offense, because it is defined as an assault with little or no injury to the victim where no weapon other than hands is used. Because simple assault includes fistfights, threats, harassment and voice intimidation for purposes of this report it will be included in school violence numbers.

**Violent Offenses (Including Simple Assault)  
in Alabama Schools 2000**

| <b>Offense</b>     | <b>Statewide</b> | <b>In School</b> | <b>% of Total</b> |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Homicide           | 314              | 0                | 0%                |
| Rape               | 1,377            | 19               | 1.38%             |
| Robbery            | 5,271            | 35               | 0.66%             |
| Aggravated Assault | 15,122           | 196              | 1.30%             |
| Simple Assault     | 70,783           | 1,893            | 2.67%             |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>92,867</b>    | <b>2,143</b>     | <b>2.31%</b>      |

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\* Excluding simple assaults.

# Summary of School Violence in Alabama

- There were 2143 violent offenses (including simple assault) reported in Alabama schools in the calendar year of 2000. There were 19 rapes, 35 robberies, 196 aggravated assaults, and 1893 simple assaults reported to law enforcement as having occurred in an Alabama public or private elementary, junior high, or high school (excludes adult colleges and universities).
- Based on the Alabama Department of Education's enrollment figure of 732,042 for grades K-12, school year 1999-2000, the number of violent offenses per 100,000 enrolled students, including simple assaults, is 292.7. Excluding simple assaults, the number of violent offenses per 100,000 enrolled students would be 34.2. The number of violent offenses per 100,000 population statewide in 2000 was 496.6 (excluding simple assault).
- 51% of the victims of school violence were females, and 49% were males. 47% of the victims were black, 52% were white, and 1% were other races; 61% of the victims of school violence were juveniles, and 39% were adults. The victims' ages ranged from 5 years old to 64 years old, with the largest number being 14-year-olds.
- 72% of the offenders were male, and 28% were female; 62% were black, and 38% were white; 71% were juveniles and 23% were adults. The ages of the offenders ranged from 7 to 66 years old, with the largest number being 15-year-olds.
- 21% of all offenses occurred on a Wednesday, while 20% occurred on a Thursday. The lowest number occurred on Saturday and Sunday. The weekday with the least number of offenses reported was Tuesday, at 17%.
- The largest number of offenses occurred when students were not in class: before school (8 a.m., 10%) during lunch hour (12 Noon, 10%) and at the end of the school day (3 p.m., 10%).
- In 83% of the offenses the weapon used was hands, fists or feet; in 14% the weapon was other dangerous weapon; in 2% the weapon used was a gun, and in 2% the weapon used was a knife. 66% of the victims reported no injury, while 34% reported being injured.

- In 47% of the offenses the victim and offender were acquaintances. In 18% of the offenses the victim and offender were teachers/students, in 3% the victim and offender were friends, in 3% they were boyfriend/girlfriend, and in 18% of the cases the relationship was not reported or unknown.
- In 69% of all school violence incidents the age of both the victim and offender were known and reported. 51% of these incidents had juvenile victims and juvenile offenders; 20% had adult victims and juvenile offenders; 19% had adult victims and adult offenders; and 10% had juvenile victims and adult offenders.
- For purposes of this report, a juvenile is considered 17 years of age or younger. However, there may be students attending high school who are 18 years of age. Adjusted to include 18-year-olds as “students” and anyone over the age of 20 as “adults,” the percent of incidents with student victims and student offenders rises to 56%; adult victims and student offenders 20%; adult victims and adult offenders 16%; and student victims with adult offenders 8%.
- In the 18% of school violence incidents where the relationship between the victim and offender was teacher/student, 85% of the victims were teachers and 15% of the victims were students.
- 49% of the incidents were cleared by arrest or exceptional means. 15% of the incidents were cleared by the arrest of a juvenile, and 7% were cleared by the arrest of an adult. 27% of the cases were cleared by an exceptional clearance: 15% by lack of prosecution, 10% by other prosecution, and 2% by juvenile, no referral.
- Judging by the age of the victims alone, where ages 5-12 would be elementary school, ages 13-15 junior high school and ages 16 and older high school, it can be generally estimated that 26% of incidents occurred at elementary schools, 29% at junior high schools, and 45% at high schools.

**Violent Offenses (including Simple Assault)  
Reported in Schools by County**

| <b>County</b> | <b>Hom</b> | <b>Rape</b> | <b>Robb</b> | <b>Agg Aslt</b> | <b>Simp Aslt</b> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Jefferson     | 0          | 2           | 6           | 50              | 397              |
| Mobile        | 0          | 2           | 7           | 28              | 245              |
| Montgomery    | 0          | 4           | 8           | 14              | 89               |
| Autauga       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 21               |
| Baldwin       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 5               | 49               |
| Barbour       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 3               | 15               |
| Bibb          | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Blount        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 21               |
| Bullock       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Butler        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Calhoun       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 40              | 138              |
| Chambers      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 7                |
| Cherokee      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Chilton       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 5               | 7                |
| Choctaw       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Clarke        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 14               |
| Clay          | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 4                |
| Cleburne      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Coffee        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 6                |
| Colbert       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 8                |
| Conecuh       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Coosa         | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 3                |

| <b>County</b> | <b>Hom</b> | <b>Rape</b> | <b>Robb</b> | <b>Agg Aslt</b> | <b>Simp Aslt</b> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Covington     | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 12               |
| Crenshaw      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Cullman       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 37               |
| Dale          | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 16               |
| Dallas        | 0          | 2           | 1           | 6               | 42               |
| Dekalb        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 8                |
| Elmore        | 0          | 0           | 1           | 1               | 50               |
| Escambia      | 0          | 0           | 3           | 3               | 12               |
| Etowah        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 30               |
| Fayette       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 2                |
| Franklin      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                |
| Geneva        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 5                |
| Greene        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 3                |
| Hale          | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Henry         | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 2                |
| Houston       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                |
| Jackson       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 9                |
| Lamar         | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Lauderdale    | 0          | 1           | 0           | 6               | 17               |
| Lawrence      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 4                |
| Lee*          | 0          | 2           | 1           | 8               | 48               |
| Limestone     | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 3                |
| Lowndes       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 3                |
| Macon         | 0          | 1           | 3           | 3               | 19               |
| Madison       | 0          | 1           | 2           | 14              | 193              |



| <b>County</b> | <b>Hom</b> | <b>Rape</b> | <b>Robb</b> | <b>Agg Aslt</b> | <b>Simp Aslt</b> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Marengo       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 3                |
| Marion        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 3                |
| Marshall      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 24               |
| Monroe        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 4               | 20               |
| Morgan        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 4                |
| Perry         | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| Pickens       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 2                |
| Pike          | 0          | 1           | 0           | 0               | 21               |
| Randolph      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 15               |
| Russell       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 12               |
| St. Clair     | 0          | 0           | 0           | 3               | 17               |
| Shelby        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 3               | 9                |
| Sumter        | 0          | 0           | 1           | 0               | 6                |
| Talladega     | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 14               |
| Tallapoosa    | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 9                |
| Tuscaloosa*   | 0          | 3           | 2           | 12              | 177              |
| Walker        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 3               | 9                |
| Washington    | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 6                |
| Wilcox        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                |
| Winston       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>19</b>   | <b>35</b>   | <b>196</b>      | <b>2143</b>      |

\*Although university police department statistics are not included in this report, in counties where large universities are located (Lee County – Auburn Univ., Tuscaloosa County – Univ. of Alabama) some campus crime may have been reported by the city police department with a premise code of “school,” which will increase the statistics for that county.

# Zero Tolerance Policy

## Fort Myers honor student jailed, suspended after knife found in her car

The Associated Press  
Posted May 22 2001, 4:30 PM EDT

FORT MYERS -- A National Merit Scholar was sent to jail and will miss graduation after a kitchen knife was found in her car and officials enforced a zero-tolerance policy that forbids weapons on campus.

Lindsay Brown, an 18-year-old senior at Estero High School spent Monday in jail on a felony charge of possession of a weapon on school property. She was also suspended for five days.

Officials saw the knife on the floor of the passenger's side of Brown's car while she was in the school, a report said.

Brown will be allowed to take her exams Wednesday and will most likely get her diploma, but she will miss graduation activities and the May 29 commencement.

"They're taking away my memories," Brown said, as she walked out of the Lee County Jail on Monday afternoon after posting \$2,500 bail.

"I'm so angry, I won't get to graduate with my friends because of a stupid kitchen knife."

The knife, which has a 5-inch blade, had been left in the car after it was used to move some possessions over the weekend, Brown said.

She said she didn't know it was there until school security and Lee County sheriff's Cpl. John Scheall pointed it out to her.

Brown's family claims the arrest is a case of political correctness run amok.

"Lindsay is a good kid," said her mother Melissa Ashworth. "The punishment is too harsh; she didn't even know the knife was there."

Brown is scheduled to return to court June 22. Brown and her parents said they hope the arrest will not affect her academic scholarship to Florida Gulf Coast University.

Sheriff's Lt. Bill Byrus said he sympathizes with Brown, but said the arrest is not up to the discretion of the officer or based on the student's behavior record.

"The statute says what she did meets the probable cause requirements for an arrest," Byrus said. "We had no choice."

Lisa Luciani, a school district spokeswoman, said the district is still reviewing the arrest.

Nationally many school systems have come under fire due to stories in the media regarding “zero tolerance” policies that require otherwise well behaved and productive students to be expelled from school for inadvertently violating anti-drugs or weapons policies with such items as aspirin or nail clippers. While weapons and drugs in school are a concern to parents everywhere, no one wants to see an honor student arrested and removed from school for bringing a butter knife in his or her lunchbox.

Alabama public schools have a statewide zero tolerance policy regarding drugs and weapons in schools. The zero tolerance policy is required in schools that receive Title IV funding by federal law. However, school administrators and principals have the authority to determine how a weapons offense will be handled. A principal is allow to use his/her discretion in how to discipline a student who brings a weapon to school, so a 7-year-old with nail clippers is not treated the same way as a 15-year-old with a gun.

The Alabama school safety policies are provided in [A Manual of State Laws and Regulations Relating to School Safety and Discipline](#), published by the Alabama State Department of Education Prevention and Support Services Division. The policies regarding weapons in school read, in part:

### **Section 16-1-24.1**

**Safe school and drug-free school policy; treatment of policy violators; promulgation and distribution of discipline policy; liability limited for discipline actions; local boards may adopt more stringent guidelines.**

- (b) The principal shall notify appropriate law enforcement officials when any person violates local board of education policies concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons, physical harm to a person, or threatened physical harm to a person. If any criminal charge is warranted arising from the conduct, the principal is authorized to sign the appropriate warrant. If that person is a student enrolled in any public school in the State of Alabama, the local school system shall immediately suspend that person from attending regular classes and schedule a hearing at the earliest possible date, which shall not be later than five school days. The decision to suspend or initiate criminal charges against a student, or both, shall include a review and consideration of the student's exceptional status, if applicable, under Chapter 39, or appropriate federal statutory or case law.

### **Section 16-1-24.3**

**Local boards of education to implement policies requiring expulsion of students who possess firearms in school areas.**

- (a) All city and county boards of education shall develop and implement local policies and procedures requiring the expulsion of students, for a period of one year, who are determined to have brought to school or have in their possession a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on school buses, or at other school-sponsored functions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, city and county boards of education and the local superintendent of education of each board may modify the expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis.

Because of the state zero tolerance policy that allows weapons violations to be looked at and handled on a case-by-case basis, schools have the opportunity to discipline students who attempt to use innocuous-looking items as weapons while at the same time are not forced to punish students who mistakenly take an item to school that can be construed as a weapon.

# Juvenile Arrest Data

When violent crimes are committed on school premises, or items are taken into schools with the express intent to be used as weapons, local law enforcement is called in to make an arrest. 739 juveniles were arrested for violent offenses in 2000, and 1,741 juveniles were arrested for simple assault. An additional 257 juveniles were arrested for weapons violations in 2000.

The Alabama state uniform arrest report does not have a field allowing for the collection of premise codes, so there is no way to determine whether an arrest for a violent offense or weapons violation occurred on school grounds. However, arrest data for weapons violations vary greatly from county to county, and can be used to indicate school systems in the state that are most likely to prosecute for weapons violations

## Arrests for Violent Offenses, Simple Assault and Weapons Violations 2000

| Arrested for:      | Statewide | Juveniles | % of Total |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Homicide           | 358       | 24        | 7%         |
| Rape               | 408       | 46        | 11%        |
| Robbery            | 1,567     | 266       | 17%        |
| Aggravated Assault | 5,130     | 403       | 8%         |
| Simple Assault     | 28,647    | 1,741     | 6%         |
| Weapons Violations | 1,548     | 257       | 17%        |
| Total              | 37,658    | 2,737     | 7%         |

**Juvenile Arrests for Violent Offenses, Simple Assault,  
and Weapons Violations by County**

| <b>County</b> | <b>Hom</b> | <b>Rape</b> | <b>Robb</b> | <b>Agg Aslt</b> | <b>Simp Aslt</b> | <b>Weapons</b> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Jefferson     | 4          | 6           | 57          | 77              | 185              | 54             |
| Mobile        | 3          | 5           | 64          | 86              | 733              | 35             |
| Montgomery    | 2          | 12          | 32          | 43              | 50               | 88             |
| Autauga       | 0          | 0           | 2           | 5               | 18               | 9              |
| Baldwin       | 0          | 0           | 3           | 11              | 35               | 4              |
| Barbour       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 5               | 14               | 0              |
| Bibb          | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                | 0              |
| Blount        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Bullock       | 1          | 0           | 1           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Butler        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                | 0              |
| Calhoun       | 0          | 0           | 2           | 9               | 27               | 0              |
| Chambers      | 0          | 1           | 0           | 5               | 12               | 0              |
| Cherokee      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                | 0              |
| Chilton       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 3               | 5                | 0              |
| Choctaw       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                | 0              |
| Clarke        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 7                | 1              |
| Clay          | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Cleburne      | 0          | 2           | 0           | 2               | 0                | 1              |
| Coffee        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 3               | 21               | 0              |
| Colbert       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 8                | 1              |
| Conecuh       | 1          | 0           | 1           | 1               | 5                | 2              |
| Coosa         | 0          | 0           | 1           | 1               | 0                | 0              |

| <b>County</b> | <b>Hom</b> | <b>Rape</b> | <b>Robb</b> | <b>Agg Aslt</b> | <b>Simp Aslt</b> | <b>Weapons</b> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Covington     | 0          | 0           | 0           | 3               | 12               | 1              |
| Crenshaw      | 0          | 0           | 1           | 2               | 2                | 0              |
| Cullman       | 0          | 1           | 0           | 3               | 7                | 0              |
| Dale          | 3          | 0           | 2           | 6               | 32               | 2              |
| Dallas        | 0          | 1           | 3           | 7               | 19               | 0              |
| Dekalb        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Elmore        | 0          | 1           | 3           | 2               | 37               | 5              |
| Escambia      | 0          | 0           | 5           | 3               | 3                | 0              |
| Etowah        | 0          | 1           | 0           | 1               | 3                | 0              |
| Fayette       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 2                | 0              |
| Franklin      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 3                | 0              |
| Geneva        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 4                | 0              |
| Greene        | 0          | 0           | 1           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Hale          | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                | 0              |
| Henry         | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Houston       | 2          | 2           | 8           | 14              | 56               | 2              |
| Jackson       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 3                | 0              |
| Lamar         | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                | 0              |
| Lauderdale    | 0          | 0           | 6           | 6               | 13               | 2              |
| Lawrence      | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Lee           | 2          | 1           | 13          | 22              | 43               | 9              |
| Limestone     | 1          | 0           | 5           | 4               | 26               | 0              |
| Lowndes       | 0          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 2                | 0              |
| Macon         | 1          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 5                | 1              |
| Madison       | 0          | 1           | 21          | 24              | 123              | 16             |

| <b>County</b> | <b>Hom</b> | <b>Rape</b> | <b>Robb</b> | <b>Agg Aslt</b> | <b>Simp Aslt</b> | <b>Weapons</b> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Marengo       | 0          | 2           | 0           | 7               | 3                | 2              |
| Marion        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 0                | 0              |
| Marshall      | 0          | 0           | 2           | 2               | 13               | 1              |
| Monroe        | 0          | 1           | 3           | 1               | 0                | 0              |
| Morgan        | 0          | 0           | 7           | 2               | 16               | 7              |
| Perry         | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                | 0              |
| Pickens       | 0          | 0           | 1           | 0               | 2                | 0              |
| Pike          | 0          | 2           | 1           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Randolph      | 1          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 0                | 0              |
| Russell       | 1          | 2           | 2           | 5               | 7                | 0              |
| St. Clair     | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 4                | 0              |
| Shelby        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 7                | 0              |
| Sumter        | 0          | 2           | 0           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Talladega     | 0          | 1           | 2           | 1               | 8                | 0              |
| Tallapoosa    | 0          | 0           | 0           | 4               | 14               | 3              |
| Tuscaloosa    | 1          | 2           | 15          | 17              | 135              | 11             |
| Walker        | 0          | 0           | 0           | 2               | 4                | 0              |
| Washington    | 0          | 0           | 0           | 0               | 1                | 0              |
| Wilcox        | 0          | 0           | 2           | 1               | 3                | 0              |
| Winston       | 1          | 0           | 0           | 1               | 0                | 0              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>46</b>   | <b>266</b>  | <b>403</b>      | <b>1741</b>      | <b>257</b>     |



# Conclusion

When parents send their children off to school in the morning, they want to feel a sense of security, and know that their children will be protected while in class. With news stories about school shootings and young children bringing guns to school bombarding parents daily, that sense of security is undermined. Parents are resorting to home schooling to avoid schools they fear will inevitably need metal detectors and police walking the halls. This report has aspired to correct some of the misconceptions about the prevalence and nature of violence in Alabama's schools.

A child in an Alabama public school is 14 times LESS likely to be the victim of a violent offense than he/she would be in the general public. The violent crime rate based on school enrollment numbers is 34.2 crimes per 100,000 students. The number of violent offenses per 100,000 in the general population is 496.9. Alabama schools enforce a zero tolerance policy on drugs and weapons in school, but allow cases to be reviewed on a person-by-person basis.

The State Department of Education sets guidelines for safe schools and continues to add services intended to protect children while in school, including a safety hotline, and a uniform incident reporting systems for school as explained on the Alabama Department of Education's Prevention and Support Services website:

“In late April of 1999, the State of Alabama implemented a statewide school safety hotline, 1-888-SAV-KIDS. This statewide hotline is operated by the Alabama Department of Public Safety's Missing and Exploited Children's Unit. By calling this toll-free hotline, Alabama's students, parents and concerned citizens may report their school safety related information and concerns on a anonymous basis 24-hours a day. As of February, 2001, over 2,500 calls have been received by this hotline.

The Alabama School Incident Report (SIR) was developed in 1997 by a task force composed of local school and selected State Department of Education (SDE) personnel. This program provides the framework for all Alabama public schools and school systems to collect school safety and discipline information in a uniform manner.”