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# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## **School Safety Study gathers many voices to work on safety strategies**

Fulton County Schools' (FCS) Executive Director of Safety and Security Dr. Shannon Flounnory recently presented data on district security at State Senator John Albers' School Safety Study. Hosted at North Springs Charter High School, Albers (District 56) and his committee sponsored the first of several school safety study gatherings for local communities to engage about securing Georgia schools. Flounnory shared information on the district's board-approved safety improvements including technological implementations, additional police vehicles and specially-trained, POST-certified officers patrolling schools, plus use of the Quick Tip app, among other developments. "Providing the resources to ensure the safety and security of our state's public schools has reached the same level of prioritization as providing instructional resources for academic achievement," he said. "The State Senate School Safety Committee has initiated the conversations within our communities by listening and learning. School safety is everyone's responsibility!"

The committee panel included Committee Chairman Sen. Albers and State Senators Jeff Mullis (District 53), Valencia Seay (District 34) and P.K. Martin (District 9).

Georgia Department of Education Associate Superintendent Gary McGiboney also presented extensive information on behavioral interventions, crisis management, Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) training, discipline information, recommendations, and a reminder that no one strategy is enough; multiple efforts and initiatives are imperative for real change to occur.

Additionally, stirring testimonials were given by several students and teachers as well as by the Sandy Springs Police and Fire Chiefs Officer Ken DeSimone and Keith Sanders. Subsequent meetings will be held monthly in Ringgold, Albany, Chamblee and Savannah.

Kirk Shrum, Area Executive Director of FCS's Central Learning Community, who was present at the event, said "We appreciate bringing together different voices of law enforcement, government, students and faculty as well as community to continue seeking solutions to keep our children safe at school."

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**About the Fulton County School System.** The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. Approximately 96,700 students attend 105 schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City.