



6201 Powers Ferry Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339



[www.fultonschools.org](http://www.fultonschools.org)

# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

February 19, 2019

**For More Information Contact**

Susan Romanick, APR, Communications  
470-254-6830 or [communications@fultonschools.org](mailto:communications@fultonschools.org)

## **Fulton County Schools announces update on Sandtown Middle School investigation**

Every student's health, safety and well-being is Fulton County Schools' top priority, and we continue to support those at Sandtown Middle School who were impacted on February 14.

Fulton County Schools and Sandtown Middle School staff accompanied students and their families while at the hospitals and continue to stay in close communication on their condition. All students have been released from local hospitals and are recovering. Extra counselors will be at the school tomorrow to support students with their social/emotional needs.

As background, 28 students were taken to area hospitals last Thursday, February 14, some reporting symptoms of nausea and disorientation. Several of the students told school officials they felt ill after eating snacks and candy. Samples have been taken into custody and are part of a comprehensive evidence package received today by the GBI crime lab. GBI's assistance was requested due to their sophisticated laboratory equipment; however, the investigation is being led by the Fulton County Schools Police Department.

For transparency, we are providing the initial police incident report, which states that some students exhibited behavior indicative of drug intoxication. This suspicion is part of the toxicology testing being conducted by the GBI.

Our School Police Department continues to work this case in an extremely methodical and objective manner. Part of the processes includes student interviews, collection of evidence, and a review of initial reports. Since Friday, Monday and Tuesday were student holidays at Sandtown Middle School, interviews are still being conducted through home visits and will continue when students return to school tomorrow.

We want to be very clear that Fulton County Schools will follow through to the full extent of the law as well as with the most severe consequences allowed under our Student Disciplinary Code of Conduct should the investigation indicate foul play.

Given the suspicions and the resulting conversation in the community about edibles – or food/candy containing drugs – the school system is preparing a campaign that educates students on the dangers of taking or eating foods that come from an unknown source.

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**About the Fulton County School System.** The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. More than 95,000 students attend 106 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.