



# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## School Safety a Priority for Columbia Public Schools

### **Consequences for Fighting**

The Columbia School District must provide a safe and positive learning environment for all children. School district administration is concerned about the increase in fighting on school grounds and at school activities. Inappropriate behavior distracts from the learning opportunities of students and will not be tolerated. In response, the following consequences will occur for students in grades 8-12:

- **Participation in a fight** – minimum of a 10-day of out-of-school suspension
- **Participation in a fight and non-compliance with faculty and staff who become involved in the incident** – automatic 10-day out-of-school suspension and request for extended suspension by the Superintendent
- **Participation in a fight and assault or physical endangerment of faculty, staff or other adult** – automatic 10-day out-of-school suspension and request for extended suspension by the Superintendent that could result in suspension for up to one school year or 180 days.
- **All incidents will result in referral to law enforcement**
- **Direct or indirect participation of students who encourage or promote fights will not be tolerated and students will be subject to disciplinary actions**

The Columbia Public Schools asks for assistance from the community to encourage and promote behaviors that will cause a positive school environment.