

# Houston County Board of Education

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To: Parents of Students of the Houston County School District

In order to increase safety for all students in the Houston County School System, the Houston County Board of Education has approved the sending to you of this letter informing you of a change in the way fights between students are dealt with.

In the past, fights have been generally dealt with within the school environment without the intervention of law enforcement, except in the extreme case of an assault or battery. It is the position of the Houston County Board of Education that school is not the place for fighting. Therefore, the Houston County Board of Education has adopted a reporting policy for fights between students enrolled in the Houston County School District.

It shall be the policy of the Houston County School District that students involved in fighting shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency in the same manner required of other criminal/delinquent conduct. Law enforcement will handle fights the same as if the fight occurred in any other public place. Students 16 and younger will be treated as juvenile offenders in the Houston County Juvenile Court. Students 17 and older will appear in either the Municipal, State or Superior Courts. The Courts have indicated that students found guilty of fighting and/or disorderly conduct will receive a fine of \$50.00 for a first offense and \$100.00 for a second offense. Further explanation of penalties will be given by the Courts as it is not the province of the Houston County Board of Education to levy or impose fines or penalties.

This letter is being sent to you in hopes that advance notice of Law Enforcement reporting for fighting, Law Enforcement's intent on prosecuting these offenses and the Courts' proposed penalties will decrease incidents of fights in our schools.

The Houston County Board of Education is committed to serving the educational needs of students in a safe environment that is conducive to learning. On behalf of the Houston County Board of Education, I thank you for your cooperation and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely yours,  
Dr. Charles Holloway

November 10, 1999 (Original letter sent out by Dr. Charles Holloway)

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