

**WASHINGTON** -- Three local police departments were awarded \$352,072 in federal grants today to address crime problems ranging from assault to bullying at three local schools.

The grants, announced by U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL), are being awarded to the Fultondale Police Department, the Hoover Police Department and the Birmingham Police Department under the Department of Justice's School-Based Partnerships Program. In order to receive the grants, the local police departments have identified a specific school where the funds will be used to combat school-related crimes.

According to information from the Department of Justice:

The Birmingham Police Department, which was awarded a grant for \$135,940, is partnering with Birmingham Public Schools to combat assaults at the schools.

The Hoover Police Department received a grant for \$155,080 to target "bullying/threat/intimidation" at Hoover High School.

A \$61,052 grant for the Fultondale Police Department will target drug-related crimes at Fultondale High School.

Under the School-Based Partnerships Program, matching funds from the schools, police departments or other local agencies are not required.

"As we begin a new school year, we must make sure the hallways and classrooms of our schools are safe places for our children," Bachus said. "Protecting our children in school is not just a school problem. It is a community problem that requires a united community. I applaud our local police departments for partnering with these schools to help protect students."