



William C. Vose
Chief Assistant State Attorney

Lawson Lamar
State Attorney
Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida

415 North Orange Avenue
Post Office Box 1673
Orlando, Florida 32802
407-836-2400

Randy J. Means
Director of Investigations
and Administration

January 10, 2006

Dear Parent/Guardian:

To ensure that all children acquire the necessary skills for success in adult life, **school attendance is mandatory**. We realize almost every parent understands that education is an essential element of a child's development. However, there are a few parents or guardians who, for whatever the reasons, choose not to send their children to school on a regular basis. A child's attendance in school is the responsibility of the parents or guardians. The willful failure to fulfill this responsibility can be a violation of Florida criminal law. Local law enforcement and the State Attorney have the duty to enforce these laws.

The Ninth Judicial Circuit State Attorney and local law enforcement agencies, in cooperation with Orange County Public Schools, have created a truancy intervention program. Your child's school has been selected to participate in the program during the 2005-2006 school year. This program is designed to identify truancy at its earliest stages and monitor potential problems. The goal of the program is simply to ensure regular school attendance and maximize classroom instruction.

Effective the second semester of 2006, the attendance records of any student who accrues 5 unexcused absences will be obtained by law enforcement or the State Attorney for review. If this review indicates a need for intervention, a mandatory meeting will be held with the parents, school administrator, school social worker and a law enforcement officer in an attempt to remedy the circumstances causing the truancy. Should this effort fail to end the student's truancy or to alleviate circumstances contributing to that truancy, legal action will be taken including criminal prosecution, if appropriate. If a student's attendance becomes an issue, parents will be notified by mail.

We share in your concerns for your child's education and future well-being. It is our desire that a truancy intervention program will provide the necessary assistance to reduce truancy and enhance education. If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact your school principal.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Blocker".

Ronald Blocker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawson Lamar".

Lawson Lamar