



COUNTY OF SONOMA

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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**JILL RAVITCH**  
District Attorney

September 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Sonoma County District Attorney's Office once again partners with the Sonoma County Office of Education, as well as law enforcement leaders, to ensure that every child attends school on a regular basis, as required by law.

Please join us in recognizing September as Attendance Awareness Month, and renewing our commitment to improving school attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism so that all children have a chance to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.


We must make school attendance a priority. Studies have consistently shown that children who do not regularly attend school are at much greater risk of becoming involved in criminal activity – either as an offender or a victim – than those children who do regularly attend school. We know that a reduction in truancy means fewer crimes committed, less opportunity for experimenting with drugs, and an increased graduation rate, leading to greater opportunities for our kids.

Although we recognize that the vast majority of parents who receive this letter do not need a reminder to get their children to school, we encourage you to consider this important issue as a community responsibility for all of us who raise our families in Sonoma County. To meet this goal, the District Attorney's Office, with the cooperation of the schools, the police, and the courts, will prosecute parents who fail to get their children to school on a regular basis without a valid excuse and, therefore, violate the truancy laws. Together, we hope to improve school attendance, decrease crime, save costs, brighten the educational and job prospects of our school children, and improve our communities.

Please join us in working together to end truancy in Sonoma County in order to ensure that every child has an opportunity to learn, grow and succeed in life as a productive member of our society.

Sincerely,

  
JILL RAVITCH  
District Attorney

  
STEVE HERRINGTON  
Superintendent of Schools