



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY
 15 Commonwealth Avenue Woburn, MA 01801
 www.middlesexda.com



District Attorney

Tel: 781-897-8300
 Fax: 781-897-8301

EXECUTIVE

- ADMINISTRATION
- COMMUNICATIONS
- INTERVENTION & PREVENTION PROGRAMS
- PUBLIC POLICY
- LEGISLATION
- VICTIM WITNESS BUREAU

TRIAL TEAMS

- CAMBRIDGE REGION SUPERIOR COURT
- MALDEN REGION SUPERIOR COURT
- WOBURN DISTRICT COURT

SPECIALTY UNITS

- APPEALS & TRAINING BUREAU
- CYBER PROTECTION PROGRAM
- FAMILY PROTECTION BUREAU
- CHILD ABUSE UNIT
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT
- ELDER/DISABLED UNIT
- PUBLIC PROTECTION, ANTI-TERRORISM, CORRUPTION & TECHNOLOGY (PACT)

STATE POLICE DETECTIVES

- COMPUTER FORENSICS
- HOMICIDE
- PACT

REGIONAL OFFICES

- CAMBRIDGE
- FRAMINGHAM
- LOWELL

DISTRICT COURT OFFICES

- AYER
- CAMBRIDGE
- CONCORD
- FRAMINGHAM
- LOWELL
- MALDEN
- MARLBOROUGH
- NEWTON
- SOMERVILLE
- WALTHAM
- WOBURN

September 1, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As your District Attorney and the mother of two young adults, I know that students and their families face many challenges throughout the school year. I have been working with your school district to ensure that we have policies in place so that your child is safe and productive. One of our primary concerns is the need for consistent and timely school attendance for all students.

The consequences of failing to attend school are serious and well-documented. Truancy has been identified as a potential predictor of criminal behavior and drug use. It is often associated with lowered academic achievement, self-esteem and even diminished employment potential. In addition, several studies have found that a pattern of poor attendance in the early grades is linked to an increased likelihood for dropping out of school in later years.

Parents and guardians, as well as students themselves, have the statutory responsibility to ensure that attendance at school is regular and timely. If a school identifies a student who is exhibiting an attendance problem, which includes tardiness, the school is required by law to address that problem. This could be as simple as notifying the parent or guardian and working together to improve that student's attendance. In extreme instances, however, it may require the school to solicit assistance from the Court or The Department of Children and Families.

Enclosed you will find a summary of the Massachusetts General Laws pertaining to attendance. We encourage you to review this as well as your school's policy on attendance. Please feel free to contact the principal of your child's school should you wish to discuss this information further.

We all share the goal of enabling our students to reach their full potential and that begins with a student's regular and timely attendance at school. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation. We look forward to a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Marian Ryan
 District Attorney
 Middlesex County

Superintendent, Lexington Public Schools

Principal, Diamond School

