## Office of the District Attorney State of Oklahoma



August 4, 2023

## Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to school! This is an exciting time of year as our students head back to class to continue to grow, learn, and move toward fulfilling their potential.

We are all familiar with the saying, "ninety percent of life is just showing up." Well, school is no different. Our experience and the research clearly show that success in school is tied directly to attendance. That is why my office takes your child's school attendance seriously. We want to partner with you and your school to ensure every child has a chance to succeed, and this begins with attendance.

Oklahoma law requires school attendance. Students cannot be absent without a valid excuse for ten (10) or more days or parts of days within a semester, or four (4) or more days or parts of days in any four (4) week period. It is a misdemeanor for any parent or guardian to violate school attendance laws. Your school's student handbook includes the school's specific policies regarding attendance. If your child has more absences than the law allows, the school may choose to contact our office which could then take action to ensure your child attends school.

I encourage you to know your school's attendance policies, to keep the lines of communication with your school open, and to work closely with the school to keep them informed of issues affecting your child's attendance. We hope to work with you and your school to make this a great year. In the end, all of us have the very same goal – your child's success!

If you have any questions or the District Attorney's Office can help in any way, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Mike Fields