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Long Beach, California

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> **Important Notice:**
>
> **New State Law Regarding Chronic Student Truancy**

On January 1, 2010, a new law (Senate Bill 1317) took effect providing for criminal prosecution of parents or legal guardians of a child when the child has excessive unexcused school absences and is deemed a "chronic truant."

School attendance is critical. Studies prove that children who do not regularly attend school are more likely to fall behind on class work and can become disruptive to the learning environment for their classmates.

Moreover, chronic absenteeism often leads to school dropout. Statistics clearly show that school dropouts have significantly fewer job prospects, earn lower salaries, are more likely to commit crimes, and are more often unemployed than youth who stay in school.

Beginning January 1, 2011, LBUSD and the Long Beach Police Department will be reviewing cases where children K-8 are absent from school 10% or more of days without excuse. Where children are found to be "chronic truants," cases will be referred to the City Prosecutor's Office for consideration of criminal charges.

LBUSD will also continue to actively monitor school absences and take cases to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). School officials will notify parents or guardians when children have unexcused absences and complete the SARB process before cases will be referred for consideration of criminal charges.

With SB 1317, now more than ever it is important that parents and guardians ensure regular school attendance by their children. I do not wish to prosecute anyone for truancy, however, I will enforce this new law as I do other laws. If you have any questions regarding LBUSD's truancy program, please contact LBUSD's Truancy Coordinator Dr. Richard M. Tebbano at (562) 986-6870.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Haubert
Long Beach City Prosecutor