



M. BOFILL DUHÉ

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

16TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Iberia • St. Martin • St. Mary

FAMILY SERVICE DIVISION

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To: The Parents, Guardians, or Caretakers of Students Enrolled in St. Martin Parish Schools

The following letter contains information related to the law and the policy of the District Attorney's Office, along with the St. Martin Parish School Board policy regarding attendance and behavior during the 2019-2020 school-year.

Attendance

Louisiana Law requires parents, guardians, or caretakers of school-age children to assure the attendance of their children at school (R.S. 17:221 and 14:92.2). When a student misses five (5) unexcused days of school, a referral may be made to the District Attorney's Office. As a result of this referral, you may be required to attend a conference at your child's school or the District Courthouse to discuss your child's truancy issue. **Should the student continue to be absent from school, the parent and student can be referred to the Family in Need of Services (FINS) Program or to the 16th Judicial District Court for prosecution under the statutes mentioned above.** Guardians who violate the above-mentioned laws may be sanctioned in any of the following ways:

- fined not more than \$500.00
- imprisoned for not more than 90 days
- or both imprisonment and fine
- minimum conditions of probation
 - 40 hours of court-approved community service
 - A combination of 40 hours of court-approved community service and attendance at a court-approved family counseling program by both parent and child

Note that guardians who seek the assistance of law enforcement officials, social service officials, or other appropriate authorities in leading the child to modify his or her behavior, or in referring the child to appropriate treatment or corrective facilities shall not be found guilty of the violations mentioned under R.S. 14:92.2.

Louisiana Law also requires parents, guardians, or caretakers of school-age children to assure that students arrive at school on time (R.S. 17:233). Should the student accumulate five (5) unexcused tardies in one semester, a referral may be made to the District Attorney's Office. The parent and child may be placed on a plan of assistance with the District Attorneys' Office to resolve the problem. Habitual tardies can result in the following: first offense shall be punishable by a fine of not more than fifty (50) dollars or the performance of not less than twenty-five hours of community service; subsequent offenses shall be punishable in accordance with the truancy policy above.

Note: Cases of habitual absence or tardiness by a licensed student, who is referred to juvenile or family court; can result in denial or suspension of driving privileges.

Discipline

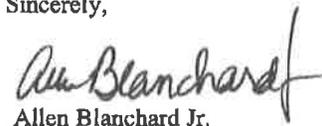
Violation of school rules related to behavior may require parent and child to attend a conference at your child's school or the District Courthouse with an official from the District's Attorney's Office. In accordance with Louisiana Law, continued violation of school rules can result in the prosecution of the parent, guardian, or caretaker and the student in question.

We earnestly and sincerely solicit your cooperation in our efforts to provide a sound education for your children. We are obligated to apply and enforce all of the laws applicable to school attendance and discipline.

Sincerely,


M. Bofill Duhé
District Attorney

Sincerely,


Allen Blanchard Jr.
Superintendent