



LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY



Dear Parent/Guardian:

To ensure that all children acquire the necessary skills for success in adult life, school attendance is mandatory under Florida law. There is a well-documented link between chronic nonattendance and juvenile crime. A child's attendance in school is the responsibility of the parents and guardians. The willful failure to fulfill this responsibility can be a violation of our criminal laws. As a part of efforts to intervene early, reduce the risk of delinquency, and preserve the futures of our children, the Lee County School Board has a responsibility to see that these laws are followed.

The School District of Lee County and the Lee County Sheriff's Office have established the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP). All Lee County Elementary Schools will participate this year in the TIP program. The program is designed to identify nonattendance issues at their earliest stages, to monitor and enforce Florida's mandatory school attendance laws.

After five or more unexcused absences within a 30 calendar day period, or ten or more unexcused absences within a 90 calendar day period, a student and his or her parent/guardian may be referred to the TIP program for review. This review will follow attempts by school personnel to help remedy the nonattendance issues. Intervention by the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Office of the State Attorney will follow if attempts to remedy the situation fail or the parent/guardian fails to cooperate with school personnel. You will be notified by mail if your child's lack of attendance causes a referral to the TIP program.

We share your concern for your child's future and well being. The Truancy Intervention Program is designed to provide you with the necessary help and assistance to combat chronic nonattendance. If you have any questions about this program, please contact your school principal or the school social worker.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rodney Shoap.

Rodney Shoap
Lee County Sheriff

Handwritten signature of Dr. James Browder.

Dr. James Browder
Superintendent of Schools