

SHAREN WILSON
Criminal District Attorney
Tarrant County

August 21, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

There are some important changes in the law of which you should be aware as you start this school year.

As of September 1, 2015 a student's act of failing to attend school is no longer criminal. However, if a school finds that a child has committed truant conduct, the school may refer the child to truancy court for a *civil* proceeding and/or file a *criminal* complaint against the parent for contributing to the child's nonattendance.

The following persons are **required by law** to attend school:

-);> individuals ages **6 to 18**
-);> a child who is younger than 6 and has previously been enrolled in first grade
-);> a person who voluntarily enrolls in or attends school after turning 19.

A child commits **truant conduct** if:

-);> the child is required to attend school (see above)
-);> and fails to attend on **10 or more days or parts of days**
-);> within a six-month period in the same school year.

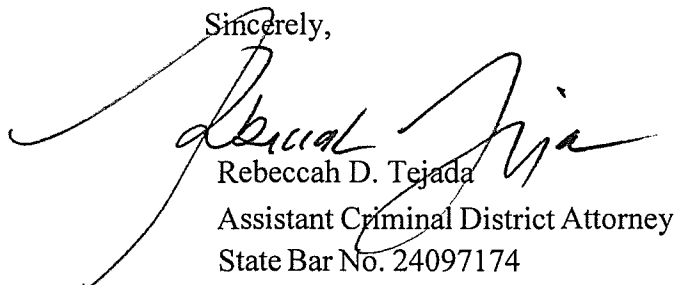
If a student misses **3 days**, the school must:

-);> notify the parent
 - of the student's unexcused absences,
 - that it is the parent's duty to ensure that the child is attending school,
 - that the student is subject to truancy prevention measures;
-);> request a meeting between the parent and school officials; and
-);> apply truancy prevention measures to address the attendance issue.

If the parent and/or the child can show that some of those absences were **excused**, and that the remaining total number of absences is under 10, then the child has not committed truant conduct.

We hope that this information helps you to make good decisions this year about your student's attendance. For your additional information, the Crowley ISD attendance policy is following.

Sincerely,



Rebecca D. Tejada
Assistant Criminal District Attorney
State Bar No. 24097174

SHAREN WILSON
CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

The **attendance policy** for Crowley Independent School District is as follows:

"Parents/guardians and students are responsible for making sure that excuses for absences are submitted, in writing, to each student's school attendance office. This must be done *within 7 days* of the absence. This will ensure that an absence is not marked as unexcused. Also, a student must have a *legitimate excuse* for arriving late or leaving early from school. The school attendance office must be notified *in writing*. If a student becomes a truant, the parent/guardian will be notified about the truancy and may be required to attend future meetings regarding the truant student.

CISD wants your student to be a success. You can help by making sure that your student is regularly attending school. Best wishes for a successful school year."