



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 20, 2008

West Sacramento Truants Get Last Chance

What: The Yolo County District Attorneys Office will hold its first-ever mediation session for truant Yolo High School and River City High School students and their parents telling them the consequences for refusing to go to school. Students will be advised that this is their last chance before their case ends up in court. The consequences for those students who continue to miss classes can be fines, community service and suspension of or delay in students getting their driver's license. The mediation will include a panel of members from the Washington Unified School District (WUSD), the West Sacramento Police Department, Child Protective Services, and the County Probation Department.

"Our goal is to work with school districts like Washington Unified to get these kids back into school," said Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig. "Other counties have used similar programs with great success. We want to help these kids graduate and become successful adults," added Reisig.

Last Spring, the District Attorneys Office started the Yolo Truancy Abatement Committee, or Y-TAC. Members of this committee include police agencies and the Sheriff's office, the County Probation Department, the Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services, Yolo County Child Protective Services, school district representatives, school board members, the Yolo County Office of Education, and community members. The goal of Y-TAC is to work collaboratively to develop strategies to help truant students get back in school.

"We have a duty to do what we can to ensure a successful future for our kids and an education is critical to their success. And the law requires that they be in school," said WUSD Trustee Matthew Stegman, who is also an Assistant United States Attorney and a Y-TAC member. So we want to give these students the resources to get to school, stay in school and graduate," added Stegman.

When: November 21, 2008 at 2:00 pm

Where: West Sacramento Police Department
550 Jefferson Blvd
West Sacramento, CA

For more information contact Deputy District Attorney Vita Mandalla at 530-666-8402 or WUSD Trustee Matthew Stegman at 916-554-2793.