



OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

MARK S. RUBIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 29, 2016

CONTACT: Mark Stodghill, County Attorney's Office
St. Louis County Courthouse
Duluth, MN 218-726-2323

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

St. Louis County Attorney hosts conversation to stem truancy

Local media can get a glimpse of the partnership developed between the St. Louis County Attorney's Office, school officials and others who support our youth when they meet for a breakfast conversation from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Thursday at the Radisson to kick off September as Truancy Awareness month.

St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin's office is hosting the event with 6th Judicial District Judge Eric Hylden and the Student Advisory Review Board (SARB) taking part.

SARB is a collaboration between the south St. Louis County schools, St. Louis County Attorney's Office, St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services, Lutheran Social Services, Arrowhead Regional Corrections, Men as Peacemakers, Duluth Police Department, Sixth District Court Administration and other local service providers.

The goal of SARB is to work with the schools to quickly identify children who have school attendance issues, to intervene at an early stage to prevent further truancy problems and to engage the student and family in services and supports to promote academic success. Referrals to the Juvenile Court may be made if diversion efforts prove to be unsuccessful.

"Improving attendance and reducing chronic absence is our goal," Rubin said. "Achieving our goal continues to take commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to the particular strengths and challenges of each child, school and community. This second annual breakfast will continue our conversations building on the collaborations, work and on what we have learned over the past year.

"Together, we have made progress addressing the problem of truancy and chronic absences in our schools. We can do more. It is our duty. There is too much at stake for our children if we fail to help them appreciate how important it is to be in school."

The breakfast will be held in the Viking Room at the Radisson.

###