



## Santa Barbara County Education Office

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August 28, 2008

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** William J. Cirone, County Superintendent of Schools  
David Francis, Superintendent, Santa Maria-Bonita School District  
Jeff Hearn, Superintendent, Santa Maria Jt. Union High School District  
Hugo Lara, Superintendent, Guadalupe Union School District  
Sharon McHolland, Superintendent, Orcutt Union School District  
Brian Sarvis, Superintendent, Santa Barbara School Districts  
Paul Turnbull, Superintendent, Santa Ynez Valley High Union High School District

**RE: Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability Program**

We appreciate the commitment of District Attorney Christie Stanley and her staff to the Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability Program. At a recent meeting we all attended, we expressed a strong commitment to meet and work with District Attorney Stanley and her staff to redesign the program and explore cost sharing options for next year. We will also involve the judges, Probation, and other critical players. We envision strengthening the program design to meet the unique needs of each district. We also will explore cost sharing possibilities and options.

We believe, as we are certain you do, that truancy prevention is important to the health, vitality, and safety of the entire community. We also believe truancy prevention is an important linchpin of any gang prevention and intervention program and is truly a public safety issue. Studies reinforce the link between delinquency and public safety and show, without a doubt, that truancy is a precursor to juvenile delinquency.

We ask that the Board of Supervisors make the District Attorney Truancy Intervention and Parent Accountability Program whole for this fiscal year so we can maintain these important community services while also using this year as a planning year to redesign a customized program for next year.

Any of us would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. We thank you for your serious consideration of this important community issue.

/ph

c: District Attorney Christie Stanley