



KENNETH MAGIDSON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

August 12, 2008

Media Advisory:

Contact: 713-755-3320

Donna Hawkins, Public Information Attorney

George Flynn, Public Information Officer

District Attorney's Press Conference
Truancy Program Expansion

Thursday, August 14

11 a.m.

Harris County Juvenile Justice Center Lobby

1200 Congress (One block south of the main Criminal Courthouse)

Harris County District Attorney Kenneth Magidson on Thursday will introduce a significantly expanded truancy prevention and enforcement program for the start of the Houston area's new school year.

The main message of the Stay in School project: Go to school or risk going to jail.

This fall, program leaders expect to surpass the 100,000 mark in warning notices issued to students with unexcused absences. The program also targets their parents with potential criminal penalties.

To main success rates for the 2008-09 academic year, Stay in School will increase staffing to partner with 12 school districts and seven Justice of the Peace courts.

(Note: The event will also unveil newly designed program posters in Spanish and English. Bilingual program representatives will be available for interviews.)

Participating independent school districts include Aldine, Clear Creek, Deer Park, Galena Park, Houston (Central and South Regions), Klein, La Porte, North Forest, Pasadena, Spring, Tomball and Waller.

(End)