



August 1, 2024

Dear Mobile County Public School System Parents,

I'd like to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year. I hope you had an enjoyable summer and are ready to have a great school year.

As the Mobile County District Attorney, I am reaching out to express a sentiment that is central to our community's values: the success and well-being of our children. At the heart of every thriving community are its youngest members, and ensuring their growth and achievement is not just a responsibility, but a privilege that we all share.

Your child's success is extremely important to us at the Mobile County District Attorney's Office. We believe that success begins with school attendance. School attendance is not only a good habit, but state law requires it. The Alabama Mandatory School Attendance Act (*Ala. Code §16-28*) requires all children ages 6-17 attend school regularly and behave properly. The District Attorney's Office has the responsibility to enforce this law.

Last year, in partnership with MCPSS, our office launched the Helping Families Initiative (HFI) to encourage and improve school attendance. We are excited to share that truancy rates and chronic absenteeism rates both decreased at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. As parents, you play a crucial role in nurturing and guiding your child's journey through education. The decrease is a reflection of how your dedication and support are invaluable in shaping their future.

Thank you for all you do to ensure your children have the best chance at success. We are looking forward to working with you this 2024-2025 school year.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school or our office. Our Helping Families Team at the Mobile County District Attorney's Office can be reached at [hfi@mobileda.org](mailto:hfi@mobileda.org) or 251-574-3306.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Blackwood".

Keith M. Blackwood  
Mobile County District Attorney  
13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit