



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jenkins, Hinojosa release recommendations to reform truancy in Dallas County

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins and DISD Superintendent Dr. Michael Hinojosa will announce on Tuesday two dozen recommendations to dramatically change how truancy cases are handled in Dallas County.

“After a year of working with local leaders, we believe Dallas County’s compiled list of recommendations will be more compassionate toward students and ensure that school intervention is much more effective making our courts a more rarely used system of last resort,” said Judge Jenkins, who recently chaired the Dallas County Uniform Truancy Policy Committee.

The committee has been meeting since February to study truancy in Dallas County and recommend changes to the legislature which begins meeting next year.

The recommendations include massive changes such as removing “parts of days” from the state statute meaning school can only refer cases to truancy courts on students who miss whole days of school.

“If a student is present for any part of the day, we should be able to connect with them while they are on campus to address why they’re skipping certain classes without referring them to court,” said Dr. Hinojosa, whose district will implement the whole day referrals this year.

The press conference announcing the entire list of recommendations will be Tuesday, November 29 at 10:00 a.m. at W.H. Adamson High School at 309 E 9th St, Dallas, TX 75203.

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