**NEW FAMILIES - FIRST MEETING**

Welcome Family and School,

We appreciate you being here today and recognize that your schedule is busy and it can be difficult to get here.

This is the School Attendance Review Board. I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I will be chairing this meeting. The other members will introduce themselves in just a minute.

We are meeting here today to talk about your student’s attendance at school. Our goal is to end this meeting with an action plan with next steps for you, your student, and the school to take that will support good attendance. Your participation is the most critical piece to making a difference. You have a copy of your student’s attendance record to refer to.

We would like to begin this meeting with a few common agreements:

* Regular attendance is necessary for every student to be successful academically, socially, and emotionally
* Regular attendance is the law
* Regular attendance can be a challenge for a number of reasons

Can we all agree to these statements?

There are many different community partners at this table, all available to help brainstorm ideas that will meet our goal today. This is a formal process, driven by the Education Code of California - specifically Ed Code 48260 which states that attendance at school is mandatory.

It’s my job to inform you that there are potential legal consequences to parents when their student is not in regular attendance in school. Everyone here wants to avoid those consequences, but they do include possible charges in Humboldt County Superior Court.

This Board believes that together we can make necessary changes well before that becomes an issue.

I will have the Board introduce themselves and then we’ll begin with the school’s reporting on the strengths and challenges they see, as well as the efforts they’ve made to support the family..

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