



## Introducing the **be@school** Program

The new school year has begun. Please join me in making school attendance a priority for our families, our schools, and our community. Together we can improve graduation rates, reduce juvenile crime, and make Hennepin County a prosperous place for all our children, youth, and families.

Please be aware that Minnesota law requires all children and youth, beginning at age seven, to be at school every day on time. There are four basic reasons a student may be absent from school:

- family emergency;
- family funeral;
- student's illness; or
- a religious holiday.

If you have one or more of these four reasons, a parent or guardian must contact the school directly to let them know the reason for the absence.

Truancy remains a serious issue in our schools. The be@school Program is an effort to improve school attendance by working with students and parents, schools and the community to remove any and all barriers that interfere with school attendance.

If you are facing problems getting your child to school, we want and can help. Please call 612-348-6041 to discuss these issues before they become more serious. Let us work together to keep our students in school by taking the be@school pledge. To take the pledge visit our website at [www.be-at-school.org](http://www.be-at-school.org) and agree to Every Day. On Time. be@school.

Sincerely,

**Michael O. Freeman**  
Hennepin County Attorney

***Every Day. On Time. be@school.***