



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MAYOR MORRISSEY CITES TRUANCY GAINS

ROCKFORD - March 27, 2009 - Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey today offered comments on the issues raised by reporter Jeff Kolkey on the accuracy of truancy numbers reported by District 205.

"Mr. Kolkey's story highlighted the success of our truancy intervention initiative, which began in January of 2007. While the raw numbers are different, Mr. Kolkey's cited numbers confirm our prior reference to a 39% drop in the District's chronic truancy rate. The rate has dropped from over ten (10) percent of students to just over six (6) percent. The percentage drop has remained the same.

That 39 percent decline is a major victory for our community and its children and it underscores the effectiveness of our initiative. Since beginning our efforts, the District's chronic truancy rate has averaged seven percent, which is the lowest three year average in decades.

I am excited to have the opportunity to enter into a new Truancy Agreement with the District effective June 1, 2009 and to partner with incoming Superintendent Dr. Lavonne Sheffield to eradicate truancy from our community. We want a consistent system with the most accurate information.

I applaud the District for recognizing that their technology, communication and tracking tools need a major upgrade. They have allocated significant resources to improving their systems and we look forward to the improved process. The City of Rockford continues to lead in the effort to reduce truancy in our community and we look forward to continuing our partnership with District 205."

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