

City of Ames, Iowa Proclamation

“SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH”

WHEREAS, nationally, as many as 7.5 million students miss 10 percent of the school year in excused and unexcused absences every year; and,

WHEREAS, students who missed 10 percent of their kindergarten and first grade years scored, on average, 60 points below their peers who had good attendance, on third-grade reading tests; and,

WHEREAS, by ninth grade, missing 20 percent of the school year is a better predictor of dropping out than test scores; and,

WHEREAS, chronic absence adversely affects learning for all students because it slows the pace of instruction when teachers must spend time reviewing material for students who were absent; and,

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Ames Community School District identified that 500 students in kindergarten through fifth grade miss 10 or more days each year, and the District has implemented an attendance policy designed to monitor and intervene before absences become chronic; and,


WHEREAS, by 2016, the number of kindergarten through fifth grade students who missed 10 or more days dropped to 381 — a 24% improvement; and,

WHEREAS, continuing to reduce chronic absences is a community affair that involves parents, government agencies, faith leaders, businesses, and community nonprofits and role models, as well as parents and school officials; and,

WHEREAS, United Ways across the nation are coming together to support Attendance Awareness Month in September, and United Way of Story County is leading the Grade Level Reading Campaign which focuses on school readiness, summer learning, and school attendance.

THEREFORE, I, Ann H. Campbell, Mayor of the City of Ames, Iowa, do hereby proclaim September 2016 as “SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH.”

Signed this 13th day of September, 2016.


Ann H. Campbell, Mayor

