



Gary Richard Herbert

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, regular school attendance is essential to successful student achievement and graduation because teaching and learning are hindered when the student is not present in the classroom;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism—defined as being absent more than ten percent of school days—frequently indicates the student's potential to struggle academically, dropout out of school, or engage in delinquent behavior, as well as serves as a sign that something may be disrupting the student's life, providing an opportunity to intervene with counseling or other forms of support;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism affects all students negatively by reducing instruction time, exacerbating the achievement gap between truant students and their peers, and undermining efforts to improve academically struggling schools;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism may affect low-income and minority students particularly severely because they are more likely to lack academic and technological resources to compensate for lost time in the classroom, and are often challenged with systemic barriers to attending school regularly, such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, or unstable housing or homelessness;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism can be significantly reduced when schools, parents, and communities work together to monitor and promote regular school attendance and address barriers or issues that contribute to the problem; and

Whereas, the state of Utah encourages efforts to increase public awareness of the importance of students' regular school attendance throughout grades K-12 in order to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed academically;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare September 2015 as

School Attendance Awareness Month in Utah


Governor