****

**Proclamation of September 2023 as
Attendance Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS** the nation is experiencing a school absenteeism crisis, brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and other challenges that have eroded positive conditions for learning at school, including physical and emotional health and safety; a sense of belonging, connection and support; academic challenges and engagement; and adults and peers with social emotional competency, which motivate students and families to show up and engage,

**WHEREAS** reducing chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school for any reason) requires taking a comprehensive trauma-informed approach that starts with prevention and early intervention, including developing routines and trusting relationships that create a sense of belonging rather than responding with punitive action, which research finds is not particularly effective,

**WHEREAS** improving attendance and engagement takes schools, families, elected leaders and other community partners working together to rebuild regular and trusting communications and to identify and address barriers to being in school,

**WHEREAS** taking attendance daily in a caring, consistent manner is essential to identifying when students begin to miss too much school, and for engaging students and families, as early as possible, with needed support and resources,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stands with the nation in recognizing September as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to focusing on reducing absenteeism and addressing the factors that cause students to miss school in order to ensure all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. We recognize that we must work together to build an engaging school environment that motivates attendance and sends the message that learning can and must continue.

Specifically, we will: (Please add in the specific commitment(s) that reflect what your district/city/state department is willing to do. Below are possible examples that can be tailored to your realities.)

1. *Engage students, families, educators and the broader community – including civic and elected leaders, local businesses, clergy members and nonprofit organizations – in working together to identify and remove barriers to getting to school in our community, and develop meaningful solutions that ensure all children and youth keep learning despite today’s many challenges.*
2. *Affirm the importance of showing up and engaging in school, and discuss with students and families what is needed to make showing up to school worthwhile.*
3. *Work with schools and districts and use an expanded set of data, (including analyzing attendance and participation in in-person and remote learning, digital access, availability of working contact information and relationships to school staff), to monitor outcomes for different groups of students, raise public awareness, establish goals, allocate resources, track progress, and assure accountability for an equal opportunity to learn.*

Attendance Works is a national non-profit that promotes equal opportunities to learn and advances student success by inspiring policies and practices that prevent and reduce chronic absence. Go to our website (www.attendanceworks.org) to find a wide array of free materials, research and success stories to help schools and communities work together to improve student attendance and engagement.