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**Proclamation of September 2025 as
Attendance Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**  chronic absence may be the single biggest barrier to improving education in our country, makinggood attendance crucial to nurturing an educated and healthy next generation with the skills needed for a strong economy,

**WHEREAS** students and families are more likely to show up and engage when there are 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,

**WHEREAS** reducing chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school for any reason) requires a comprehensive 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 noticing—as soon as possible—when students are starting to miss too much school, and engaging students and families with needed support and resources,

**WHEREAS**  supporting the health and well-being of the school community and sending the message that students should avoid missing school for minor symptoms of illness is essential to reestablishing daily attendance routines,

**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 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 matters.

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, digital access, availability of working contact information and relationships to school staff), which together paint a holistic picture of whether students are positioned to benefit from current learning opportunities, to monitor outcomes for all students, raise public awareness, establish goals, allocate resources, track progress, and assure accountability for an opportunity to learn for every student.*

Attendance Works is a national non-profit that advances success in school and beyond for all students 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 districts, schools and communities work together to improve student attendance and engagement.