



CITY OF STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

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; and

WHEREAS, physical and emotional health, a sense of belonging and support, and engagement with adults and peers with social emotional competency are all vital in motivating students and families to show up and engage; and

WHEREAS, rather than responding with punitive action, reducing chronic absence requires a comprehensive approach starting with prevention and early intervention, and includes the development of routines and trusting relationships that create a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, taking daily attendance 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; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by Staunton City Council, that the City stands with Staunton City Schools and the Nation in recognizing

Attendance Awareness Month

and commits to focusing on reducing absenteeism by addressing the factors that cause students to miss school, ensuring all children an equitable opportunity to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially, by working together to build an engaging school environment that motivates attendance and sends the message that learning can, and must, continue.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City to be affixed, adopted this 26th day of October, 2023.


STEPHEN W. CLAFFEY, MAYOR



ATTEST: 
CLERK OF COUNCIL