

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, academic achievement is something for which every community strives and regular and consistent attendance is essential to student achievement, and

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence, missing 10% of school days or more of school for any reason, is a well-established predictor of academic struggle for students of any age, as well as a powerful predictor of school dropout, it weakens our communities and our local economy, and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2014 – 2015 school year approximately 9% of students in the Greater Omaha Metropolitan Area were chronically absent; totaling more than 9,000 students missing more than 20 days of school, and

**WHEREAS**, all students are impacted by chronic absence, as teachers spend significant class time reviewing material missed by absent students, and

**WHEREAS**, reducing chronic absence takes commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to particular challenges and strengths in each community, and


**WHEREAS**, chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, families, and communities work together to monitor and promote attendance and address barriers to such, and

**WHEREAS**, the GOALS Center strives to improve attendance through voluntary programing, in collaboration with schools and communities, for students with school attendance concerns or barriers and their families.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that as the Mayor of Ralston, I proclaim our city will stand with the nation in recognizing September as “Attendance Awareness Month.”

We hereby commit to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Ralston to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

  
Donald A. Groesser, Mayor  
City of Ralston

