

Dear School Professionals,

September is National Attendance Awareness Month. We all know the importance of students being in School Every Day possible as well as the importance to reduce or eliminate barriers to school attendance.

A small group of school professionals and community providers have met over the past month to develop and identify useful tools that you may be able to utilize within your school building and school district not just during the month of September but all year long. We hope that you find these resources listed below useful while seeking ways to improve school attendance when needed.

### **Resources:**

- Attendance Awareness Month Social Media Activities. This is meant to be a helpful guide that you may adjust and change to fit your school building / school district. You may update the message(s) to be more specific to your school building / school district.
- Attendance Tracker that may be utilized as a tool for students and families to track the number of days absent during the school year. This handout is available in both English and Spanish.

Attendance works (<http://attendanceworks.com>) is a national organization that researches and develops tools to be used nationally for initiatives surrounding attendance. A couple of the links we find helpful are below:

- This web link (<http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/>) will take you to the main Attendance Awareness page where you will be able to find and down load information to share with students and parents (English and Spanish available) as well as material that you may utilize within your school district during the month of September and all year long. The toolkits provided by Attendance Works are easy to use and everything is FREE. Please check it out and use what is best for you and your organization.
- This web link (<http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/aam-map-form-2016/>) will take you directly to the Attendance Works Map so that you may fill out what activities your organization is planning for Attendance Awareness Month. If you plan events to take place during September you may list it on this map otherwise you may use the map to identify resources or events that are taking place in the Omaha Metropolitan Area. This is meant to be a helpful tool for students, families and the community so that they know what is occurring during the month.

Lastly we wanted to share with you that all of the Superintendents in Douglas and Sarpy County have “Joined the Call to Action” and made a commitment to support National Attendance Awareness month during September and all year long. You can see the “Call to Action” here in this link (<http://www.attendanceworks.org/superintendents-call-to-action/>).

September is about increasing awareness and providing helpful tools to students and parents. While many families know and are dedicated to having their child at school every day, some families struggle with barriers or they do not have the knowledge of the necessary resources. Working together with students, families, schools and community providers We Can help students who are at risk of struggling to improve their attendance and their academics. Let's work from individual Strengths and Open the Lines of Communication so that students and families know when and where they can seek help from schools and community providers.

***Please share this email with other school professionals in your building and/or district. Please let me know if you have any questions.***

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GOALS Center's mission is to address absenteeism and at-risk behavior through encouragement of coordinated efforts to improve student attendance and learning.