



## Resolution for Attendance Awareness Month: Nebraska! Every Day Counts!

**WHEREAS**, The mission of the Nebraska Department of Education is to lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living;

**WHEREAS**, Chronic absence - missing 10 percent of time in membership including excused, unexcused, and out of school disciplinary incidences - is a leading indicator and cause of disproportionate educational opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, Rates of chronic absenteeism have dramatically increased since 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, Last year, over 69,000 Nebraska students were chronically absent from school;

**WHEREAS**, Chronic absenteeism disproportionately affects students of color, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and English learners;

**WHEREAS**, A study of attendance and achievement data of Nebraska students illustrates negative academic effects for students after only five days of absence;

**WHEREAS**, Students who improve their attendance rates improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating;

**WHEREAS**, The State Board of Education included chronic absenteeism reduction as part of their “Nebraska Ready: Legislative and Regulatory Priorities;”

**WHEREAS**, The Nebraska Department of Education has included reduction in chronic absenteeism in AQuESTT, the state’s accountability and support system;

**WHEREAS**, Some barriers to student attendance may include lack of access to healthcare resources, unreliable transportation, low student engagement, bullying, and mobility;

**WHEREAS**, Schools and communities can work together to better understand the root causes of poor attendance; and

**WHEREAS**, Chronic absence can be significantly reduced when parents, families, communities, and community partners work together to monitor and promote attendance, and address barriers to regular school attendance; now, therefore be it;

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education hereby proclaims that regular and consistent attendance matters to our state and students;

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education believes state policymakers and each school district must put a concerted effort to reduce chronic absenteeism;

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education joins stakeholders around the country in recognizing September as Attendance Awareness Month with the campaign “Nebraska! Every Day Counts!”;

**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska Department of Education will provide informational resources to assist families, schools, and communities to reduce chronic absenteeism; and

**RESOLVED**, That the State Board of Education encourages local boards of education to commit to and establish goals and strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism in their districts.

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Patti Gubbels, President

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Kirk Penner, Vice President