



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 COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Last year, nearly 68,000 Nebraska students, or 22%, 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 improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating;

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education recognizes the importance of chronic absenteeism reduction as a measure of success for their legislative priority focused on student, family, school, and community engagement;

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education declared its commitment to halving chronic absenteeism by 2030;

WHEREAS, Reduction in chronic absenteeism is a component of 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 school boards to commit to and establish goals and strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism in their districts.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education on this 6th day of September 2024.

Elizabeth Tegtmeier, President

Deborah Neary, Vice President