



Proclamation

WHEREAS good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as preschool and kindergarten; and

WHEREAS chronic absence missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates,

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

WHEREAS chronic absence predicts lower third-grade reading proficiency, course failure and eventual dropout, it weakens our communities and our local economy; and

WHEREAS, attendance gaps among groups of students often turn into achievement gaps that undermine student success. Chronic absence particularly exacerbates the achievement gap that separates students in low-income communities from their peers, since students from low-income communities are both more likely to be chronically absent and more likely to be affected academically by missing school.

WHEREAS schools and community partners can reach out more frequently to absent students to determine why they are missing school and what would help them attend more regularly; and

WHEREAS chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, parents and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Tami Ryan, on behalf of the Dubuque Community School District Board of Education, do hereby proclaim September 2019, 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.

Signed this 9th Day of September, 2019.

ATTEST: