



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

**WHEREAS**, The Nebraska State Board of Education is committed to ensuring educational equity for all students;

**WHEREAS**, Chronic absence is defined as missing 10 percent of time in school membership including excused, unexcused, and suspensions. Each year 36,000 Nebraska students are chronically absent from school with chronic absenteeism disproportionately affecting students of color, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and English learners;

**WHEREAS**, Poor attendance can influence whether children can read proficiently by third grade. Students who improve their attendance rates improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating;

**WHEREAS**, The Strategic Vision and Direction developed by the Nebraska Department of Education and State of Board of Education includes a measure for reducing the percentage of students who are chronically absent. Additionally, the Nebraska Department of Education has included reduction in chronic absenteeism in AQuESTT, the state's accountability and support system;

**WHEREAS**, Schools and communities can work together to better understand the root causes of chronic absence. Some barriers to student attendance may include poor health and access to healthcare resources, unreliable transportation, low student engagement, bullying, and mobility; 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**, The Nebraska State Board of Education hereby proclaims that regular and consistent attendance is vital to our state and students; and

**RESOLVED**, The Nebraska State Board of Education believes as part of its call to be Agents of Change for Equity, the state and each school must engage in a concerted effort to reduce chronic absenteeism; and

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

**RESOLVED**, The Department of Education will provide informational resources to assist families, schools, and communities to reduce chronic absenteeism.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 6th day of September 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Witzel, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maureen Nickels, Vice President