

Proclamation

Attendance Awareness Month September 2014

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 kindergarten,

WHEREAS, chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, or just two of three days a month – 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,

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

WHEREAS, the impact of chronic absence hits low-income students and children of color particularly hard if they don't have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom and are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school – such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, unstable or unaffordable housing,

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,

WHEREAS, schools and community partners must do more to track, calculate and share the data on how many students are chronically absent so that we can deliver the right interventions to the right students,

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,

WHEREAS, engaging parents and the community – including civic and elected leaders, local businesses, faith based members and nonprofit organizations – to help us spread the message that good attendance matters and helps us come up with solutions to ensure all children are in school as much as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education proclaims that our community will stand with the nation and Adams County partners in recognizing September 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, emotional and socially.

Adopted by the Board of Education at its regular meeting of August 20, 2014.