

Municipality of Anchorage Alaska

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 at the earliest ages; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage School District data shows that students with the lowest attendance rate (missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason, or just two or three days a month) are also the lowest achieving students, and students who have better attendance have greater proficiency. Improving attendance and reducing chronic absence takes commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to particular challenges and strengths in each community; and

WHEREAS, our Anchorage School District set a goal that every student will attend school at least 90% of the days enrolled by the year 2020, and through their efforts there has been an increase in attendance from 74.1% in 2011-12 to 78.5% in 2013-14; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism predicts lower third-grade reading proficiency, lower fifth-grade achievement, lower eighth-grade math proficiency, course failure and eventual dropout, and it weakens our communities and our local economy; and

WHEREAS, all students, even those who show up regularly to school, are affected by chronic absenteeism because teachers must spend time reviewing matters for students who miss lessons, and 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 absenteeism can be significantly reduced when parents and community members work together with schools to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dan Sullivan, Mayor of Anchorage, Alaska, do hereby proclaim the month of September as

School Attendance Awareness Month

IN Anchorage, and I join local residents in supporting the national effort in committing to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotional and socially.




MAYOR