

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION 2015-04:

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2014

WHEREAS, good attendance is essential to positive student achievement and high school graduation, and we are committed to dedicating our resources to reducing chronic absenteeism starting as early as kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism – missing 10 percent or more school days for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, or just two or three days a month – puts students at risk for decreased reading proficiency, academic failure, and eventual dropout, all of which weaken our community and our local economy; and

WHEREAS, the impact of chronic absenteeism has a particularly negative impact on students who face barriers related to unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, and unstable or unaffordable housing as well as students who don't have the support or resources to overcome lost time in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism undermines school improvement efforts because of the challenge inherent in measuring academic achievement and providing additional supports when students are not in attendance to receive instruction; and

WHEREAS, schools and districts should track, document, calculate and share attendance data to ensure chronically absent students are identified and interventions are delivered as early in the school year as possible; and

WHEREAS, schools and community agencies should partner to communicate with students and their families to determine causes for chronic absenteeism and provide related supports; and

WHEREAS, improving attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism requires commitment, collaboration, and targeted interventions from a variety of stakeholders including schools, parents, and community resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education joins schools across the nation in recognizing September 2014 as "Attendance Awareness Month" and commits to reducing chronic absenteeism and giving all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

PASSED AND APPROVED: September 2, 2014



Heidi Haas, President
Board of Education

ATTEST:



Sharron Tuttle
Executive Assistant to the Board

