Duquesne City School District
Resolution Recognizing the Month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month
By the Receiver Acting as the Board of School Directors

Whereas, mental health is critical to the overall well-being of individuals, families, communities and businesses; and,

Whereas, mental illnesses are biologically based brain disorders that cannot be overcome through willpower and are not related to an individual's character or intelligence; and,

Whereas, mental health issues can affect individuals of any race, religion, economic status or age; and,

Whereas, mental illnesses usually strike individuals in the prime of their lives, often during adolescence and young adulthood; and,

Whereas, individuals with mental illness have the same needs and are guaranteed the same rights as all Americans; and,

Whereas, individuals with mental illness experience discrimination in education, employment and housing; and,

Whereas, a lack of full and proper treatment for individuals with mental illness costs public and private employers hundreds of billions of dollars annually through absenteeism, turnover and low productivity; and,

Whereas, in 2020, an estimated 17% of adolescents 12 to 17 years of age experienced a major depressive episode (MDE); and,

Whereas, individuals are classified as having an MDE if they experience a depressed mood or loss of interest in daily activities and have additional symptoms, including problems with sleep, eating, energy, concentration or self-worth, over a certain period of time; and,

Whereas, the National Institute of Mental Health estimates approximately 57 million adults in the United States have a mental illness that includes a mental, behavioral or emotional disorder; and,

Whereas, proper identification and treatment of mental illnesses, including support, are proven to be effective and are vitally important to assist individuals in leading full, productive lives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **Duquesne City School District** recognize the month of May as "Mental Health Awareness Month".

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this public school institution encourages the community of Duquesne to strive to increase awareness and understanding of mental illnesses and the need for appropriate and accessible services for individuals with mental illness throughout the communities of this Commonwealth.

HEREBY adopted this 9th day of May 2023.

ATTEST:

Signature on File
Board Secretary

DUQUESNE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Signature on File
Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors