



DEER VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNING BOARD

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS chronic absence may be the single biggest barrier to improving education in our country, making good attendance crucial to nurturing an educated and healthy next generation with the skills needed for a strong economy,

WHEREAS students and families are more likely to show up and engage when there are positive conditions for learning at school, including physical and emotional health and safety; a sense of belonging, connection, and support; academic challenges and engagement; and adults and peers with social-emotional competency,

WHEREAS reducing chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school for any reason) requires a comprehensive approach that starts with prevention and early intervention, including developing routines and trusting relationships that create a sense of belonging rather than responding with punitive action, which research finds is not particularly effective,

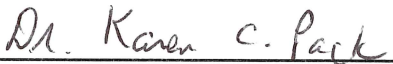
WHEREAS improving attendance and engagement takes schools, families, elected leaders and other community partners working together to rebuild regular and trusting communications and to identify and address barriers to being in school,

WHEREAS taking attendance daily in a caring, consistent manner is essential to identifying when students begin to miss too much school, and for noticing—as soon as possible—when students are starting to miss too much school, and engaging students and families with needed support and resources,

WHEREAS supporting the health and well-being of the school community and sending the message that students should avoid missing school for minor symptoms of illness is essential to reestablishing daily attendance routines,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Karen C. Pack, Governing Board Vice President of the Deer Valley Unified School District Board do hereby proclaim on the 25th of August, 2026, that September 2026 will be celebrated as “**Attendance Awareness Month**” We hereby commit to focusing on reducing absenteeism and addressing the factors that cause students to miss school in order to ensure all children an opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally and socially. We recognize that we must work together to build an engaging school environment that motivates attendance and sends the message that learning matters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the County of Maricopa this 25th day of August, 2026.



Dr. Karen C. Pack, Governing Board Vice President

Deer Valley Unified School District

