

From the Office of the Superintendent
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 as early as transitional kindergarten and 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

chronic absence is now a required reporting metric under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act,

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 students in low-income communities 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

attendance gaps among groups of students often turn into achievement gaps that undermine student success. Chronic absence particularly exacerbates the achievement gap that separates students in low-income communities from their peers, since students from low-income communities are both more likely to be chronically absent and more likely to be affected academically by missing school,

Whereas

absenteeism also undermines efforts to improve struggling schools, since it's hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if students are not in class to benefit from them,

Whereas

schools and community partners can reach out more frequently to absent students to determine what barriers they face to attending school and what would help them attend more regularly,

Whereas

health care providers can share the importance of school attendance with families and can offer proactive, preventive care to reduce absences,

Whereas

schools and districts must do more to track, calculate and share the data on how many students are chronically absent so that we can see the attendance gaps and can deliver the right interventions to the right students,

Whereas

all students – even those who show up regularly – are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing for students who missed lessons,

Whereas

chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, families and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school,

Therefore

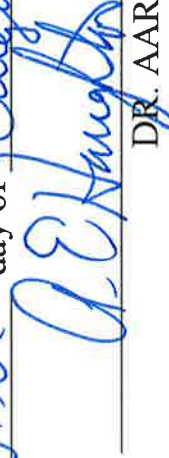
I, the Superintendent of Mojave Unified School District, proclaim our school district will stand with the nation in recognizing September as

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, EMOTIONALLY AND SOCIALLY.**

In witness whereof, by the powers granted to me, I have hereunto set my hand this

24th day of August, 2018



DR. AARON HAUGHTON
Superintendent