

CITY OF WATERLOO, IOWA

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 kindergarten; and

WHEREAS,

chronic absence—missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, or just two or three days a month—is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates; and

WHEREAS,

improving attendance and reducing chronic absence takes commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to particular challenges and strengths in each community; and

WHEREAS,

chronic absence predicts lower third grade reading proficiency, course failure and eventual dropout, it weakens our communities and our local economy; and

WHEREAS,

the impact of chronic absence hits low-income students 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 healthcare, unstable or unaffordable housing; and

WHEREAS,

chronic absence exacerbates the achievement gap that separates low-income students from their peers, since students from low-income families are both more likely to be chronically absent and more likely to be affected academically by missing school. Absenteeism also undermines efforts to improve struggling schools, since it is hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if students are not in school to benefit from class; and

WHEREAS,

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,

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

WHEREAS,

all students are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing curriculum for students who missed lessons; and

WHEREAS,

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

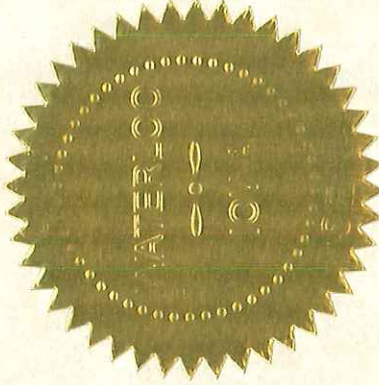
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Quentin Hart, Mayor of the City of Waterloo, Iowa, do hereby proclaim that our City will stand with the nation in recognizing September as

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

We hereby commit to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children and equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally and socially.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Waterloo, Iowa, to be affixed this 28th day of August 2017.


Quentin Hart
Mayor



ATTEST:


Kelley Felchle
City Clerk