



PROCLAMATION
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH
September 2023

Whereas, the nation is experiencing a school absenteeism crisis, brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and other challenges that have eroded 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, which motivate students and families to show up and engage,

Whereas, reducing chronic absence, missing 10% or more of school for any reason, requires taking 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 engaging students and families, as early as possible, with needed support and resources,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kenneth Weise, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Avondale, Arizona, stands with the nation in recognizing September as "School Attendance Awareness Month." We hereby focus on reducing absenteeism and addressing the factors that cause students to miss school in order to ensure all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. We must work together to build an engaging school environment that motivates attendance and sends the message that learning can and must continue.



Mayor



City Clerk