



PROCLAMATION
ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

September 2024

Whereas, communities across the nation are experiencing a school absenteeism crisis, making regular attendance more essential than ever to student well-being, achievement, and graduation; and

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; and

Whereas, reducing chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school for any reason) requires a comprehensive trauma-informed 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; and

Whereas, improving attendance and engagement takes local 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; and

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.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kenneth Weise, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Avondale, Arizona, stand with our local partners and the nation in recognizing September 2024 as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to focusing on reducing absenteeism and addressing the factors that cause students to miss school, ensuring all children an equal 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 can and must continue.



Mayor

Attest: 

City Clerk