

## BLOG or NEWSLETTER

Use the content below to post about school attendance on your blog or in your newsletter.

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### September is School Attendance Awareness Month!

*Regular attendance in the early grades boosts children's learning, achievement and motivation.*

*Attendance is so important that North Carolina has adopted a standard definition of chronic absence to ensure we have good data to drive policy and practice. Chronic absence is defined as missing **10 percent of enrolled school days within one academic year for any reason.***

*When communities come together, they can reduce chronic absence.*

National Attendance Awareness Month in September is the perfect time to shine a spotlight on the importance of regular school attendance, especially its relationship to third grade reading success, and work cooperatively with school districts and schools to improve school attendance.

The new AttendaNce Counts Community Toolkit from the NC Early Childhood Foundation (NCECF) can get you started. It includes:

- AttendaNce Counts 2019 Fact Sheet
- An Attendance Awareness Month Proclamation for Superintendents
- Social media tools to get the word out about Attendance Awareness Month and why attendance counts.

By signing the proclamation, superintendents are showing their commitment to reducing chronic absence in their districts. Superintendents across the country are increasing attendance by recognizing good and improved attendance, engaging students and families, monitoring attendance data and practice, providing personalized early outreach as needed, and developing systemic responses to attendance barriers.

In September, NCECF will release a new report that focuses on NC school and community level policy and practice around chronic absence. The report is based on 1500 responses to a survey shared with NC preschool, Head Start and elementary school teachers, staff, family members and volunteers. NCECF will also highlight bright spots in new case studies of NC school districts and schools focused on increasing school attendance.

Remember, AttendaNce Counts!

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