



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York recognizes regular school attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and we are committed to focusing our attention on reducing chronic absenteeism and helping make every student present every day; and

Whereas, chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences – is a proven early predictor of academic underperformance; and

Whereas, chronic absence predicts lower third-grade reading proficiency, course failure, higher dropout rates, and hinders student success; and

Whereas, chronic absence widens the achievement gap that separates students in high need areas from their peers and undermines efforts to improve struggling schools; and

Whereas, tracking chronic absence can help identify students who may benefit from early interventions and supports; 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 attending school every day; and

Whereas, public awareness efforts that encourage broad engagement among school leadership, parents, and community members can help make every student present; and

Whereas, during the month of September, the New York State Council on Children and Families will partner with community organizations and stakeholders to launch a statewide school attendance awareness campaign, “*Every Student Present*,” and begin the new school year with a strong message that encourages students and parents to strive for higher attendance levels;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 2013 as

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-seventh day of August in the year two thousand thirteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor