



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR  
ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

## A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, regular attendance is essential to grade-level reading, academic achievement, and graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, regular attendance puts children on track for becoming proficient readers by the end of third grade, decreases their likelihood of being retained, and supports the development of social-emotional skills needed to persist in school; and

**WHEREAS**, when a student misses 10 percent or more of school days – or just two or three days a month – for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, it is considered chronic absence; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence in early grades is associated with lower academic achievement, truancy in middle school, and school dropout; and

**WHEREAS**, all students – even those who attend regularly – are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing for students who missed lessons; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence is an earlier warning indicator that a student may need help than test scores or grades; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence widens the achievement gap between students in low-income communities and their peers; students from low-income communities are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school and more likely to be impacted academically by missing school; and

**WHEREAS**, attendance is actionable and districts across the country are increasing attendance by recognizing good and improved attendance, engaging students and families, monitoring attendance data, providing personalized early outreach as needed, and developing systemic responses to attendance barriers; and

**WHEREAS**, attendance is now a required reporting metric under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and an area of focus for both the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and the North Carolina Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, improving attendance takes commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to the challenges and strengths in each community; and

**WHEREAS**, regular attendance can be significantly increased when schools, families, and communities work together to monitor and promote attendance and address barriers that keep children from getting to school;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2018, as “ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirtieth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.