



*The School Board of Broward County, Florida*

# RESOLUTION

No. 19-09

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH  
SEPTEMBER 2018**

WHEREAS, good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as prekindergarten and kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism is identified as a student that is absent for 10 percent or more of school days for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences. Just two or three days a month is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates; and

WHEREAS, improving attendance rates and reducing chronic absenteeism in a community takes commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to barriers and strengths in each community; and

WHEREAS, the impact of chronic absence hits low-income students and children of color particularly hard if they do not have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom and are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, families, and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school; and

WHEREAS, schools and community partners can more frequently attempt to engage absent students to determine what barriers they face to attending school and what would help them attend more regularly; and

WHEREAS, health care providers and school nurses can share the importance of school attendance with families and can offer proactive, preventive care to reduce absences; and

WHEREAS, schools and districts must do more to track, calculate, and share the data on how many students are chronically absent so that we can see the attendance gaps and can deliver the right interventions to the right students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, in conjunction with students, parents, educators, school social workers, health care agencies, social service agencies, and community partners, hereby declares:

September 2018 as Attendance Awareness Month

We hereby commit to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2018.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: *Nora Rupert*  
Nora Rupert, Chair

ATTEST: *Robert W. Runcie*  
Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools