

## Resolution to Address and Reduce Chronic Absenteeism in Oklahoma Schools

- Whereas, OKPTA supports policies that enhance student academic performance, increase graduation rates, and improve overall student well-being; and
- Whereas, Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more school days, severely affects student academic performance and increases the likelihood of dropping out. Research by Attendance Works indicates that students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are less likely to read proficiently by third grade; and
- Whereas, According to the Oklahoma State Department of Education, chronic absenteeism is a significant issue affecting a substantial number of students across the state; and
- Whereas, Chronic absenteeism is linked to lower graduation rates and decreased opportunities for post-secondary education and employment. A report by the National Center for Education Statistics highlights that students who are frequently absent are at a higher risk of not completing high school; and
- Whereas, Attendance is closely linked to student health and well-being. Issues such as physical and mental health problems, family responsibilities, and transportation challenges often contribute to chronic absenteeism. Addressing these barriers is crucial for improving attendance rates; and
- Whereas, Reducing chronic absenteeism has positive implications for communities and the economy. Higher attendance rates lead to better educational outcomes, which in turn result in a more educated workforce and stronger local economies; therefore be it

- Resolved** OKPTA supports the implementation of systems to identify at-risk students early and provide targeted interventions. This includes monitoring attendance data, reaching out to families, and providing support services such as counseling and tutoring; and be it further
- Resolved** OKPTA supports the development and enhancement of programs that engage students and families, addressing barriers to regular attendance. This may include mentoring programs, transportation assistance, health services, and family outreach initiatives; and be it further
- Resolved** OKPTA encourages foster partnerships between schools, community organizations, and local businesses to create a supportive network for students and their families. Collaboration with healthcare providers, social services, and after-school programs can help address underlying causes of absenteeism; and be it further
- Resolved** OKPTA encourages professional development opportunities for educators to equip them with strategies for promoting regular attendance and addressing the diverse needs of students. Training should include recognizing signs of absenteeism and understanding its root causes; and be it further
- Resolved** OKPTA advocates for increased state support and funding for programs and initiatives aimed at reducing chronic absenteeism to ensure that schools have the resources necessary to implement effective attendance strategies.

Resources:

[Attendance Works. \(2020\). \*Chronic Absenteeism: The Hidden Educational Crisis\*.](#)

Oklahoma State Department of Education. (2020). *Oklahoma Chronic Absenteeism Data*.

National Center for Education Statistics. (2019). *The Condition of Education 2019*.

Chang, H. N., & Romero, M. (2008). *Present, Engaged, and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*. National Center for Children in Poverty.

Adopted: July 19, 2024