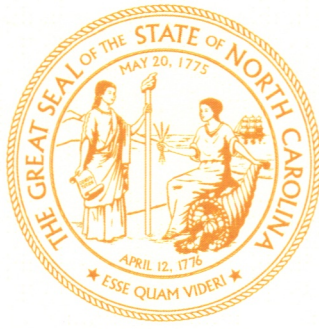




State of North Carolina

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

2026

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, education is foundational for the next generation of North Carolinians, and consistent school attendance is essential to both academic achievement and the economic opportunity that follows – ensuring that today's students become tomorrow's workforce, leaders, and engaged residents; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10 percent or more of the school year for any reason, is a significant challenge in North Carolina's public schools; and during the 2024-2025 school year, one in four K-12 students were chronically absent due to real-life challenges and unmet needs; and

WHEREAS, being present at school through regular attendance supports strong academic progress and reduces dropout risk; and evidence-based models of integrated student support have demonstrated that when trained, caring adults are present to remove barriers, students show up prepared and ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, persistent student absences place additional challenges on student learning; and addressing those root causes requires dedicated student support professionals who can identify barriers, connect families to resources, and free teachers to focus on instruction; and

WHEREAS, students and families are more likely to be present and engage when schools offer positive conditions for learning, including physical and emotional health and safety, a sense of connection and support, academic engagement, and caring adults; and

WHEREAS, addressing chronic absenteeism requires collaboration among schools, families, community organizations, and business partners; and

WHEREAS, August marks the beginning of the academic year and an opportunity to raise public awareness and recommit to evidence-based strategies that promote attendance, engagement, and achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSH STEIN, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 2026, as "**ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina and commend its observance to all residents.



A handwritten signature of Josh Stein in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

JOSH STEIN
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 twenty-first day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-sixth and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifty-first.