



City of  
Santa Rosa  
*Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence, which involves missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, is a proven predictor of academic trouble and higher dropout rates; and

**WHEREAS**, regular attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, with a focus starting as early as kindergarten; and

**WHEREAS**, regular attendance contributes to improved third grade reading proficiency, greater high school success and fewer dropouts, thus strengthening our communities and our local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, excessive absences exacerbate the achievement gap of students in poverty, since these students are more likely to miss school and to lack the resources to make up for the lost academic time. Similarly, all students are affected by chronic absenteeism when teachers must spend additional time reviewing with those who missed instruction.

**WHEREAS**, schools and districts must accurately track, calculate and share attendance data so that interventions are provided to students in a timely fashion, as efforts to improve struggling schools are strengthened by high rates of regular attendance; and

**WHEREAS**, improving attendance and reducing chronic absences takes commitment, collaboration and approaches tailored to the particular challenges and strengths in each community. School attendance can be significantly improved when schools, parents and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address the obstacles that keep children from getting to school; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Rosa supports the improvement of school attendance to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally and socially.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, John Sawyer, Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, on behalf of the entire City Council, do hereby recognize September 2016 as

**ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH**



Mayor John Sawyer  
August 16, 2016