

**SCHOOL BOARD OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
***PROCLAMATION #25-03***



**WHEREAS**, the nation is experiencing a school absenteeism crisis, making good attendance more essential than ever to student well-being, achievement, and graduation;

**WHEREAS**, students and families are more likely to show up and engage when there are positive conditions for learning at school, including physical and emotional health and safety; a sense of belonging, connection, and support; academic challenges and engagement; and adults and peers with social-emotional competency;

**WHEREAS**, reducing chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school for any reason) requires a comprehensive approach that starts with prevention and early intervention, including developing routines and trusting relationships that create a sense of belonging, rather than responding with punitive action, which research finds is not particularly effective;

**WHEREAS**, improving attendance and engagement takes schools, families, elected leaders, and other community partners working together to rebuild regular and trusting communications and to identify and address barriers to being in school;

**WHEREAS**, taking attendance daily in a caring, consistent manner is essential to identifying when students begin to miss too much school and for engaging students and families with needed support and resources as soon as possible;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Clay County District School Board stands with the nation and our community in recognizing September as "Attendance Awareness Month" under the theme of "Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow." We hereby commit to focusing on reducing absenteeism and addressing the factors that cause students to miss school to ensure all children an equal opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. We recognize that we must work together to build an engaging school environment that motivates attendance and sends the message that learning can and must continue.

***Duly adopted and approved by the Clay County District School Board this 5th day of September 2024.***

**ATTEST:**

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David S. Broskie  
Superintendent of Schools  
Clay County, Florida

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Ashley Gilhousen, School Board Chair