

TRENTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Trenton, New Jersey 08609

RESOLUTION

Attendance Matters in the Trenton Public Schools

- WHEREAS,** the Trenton Public School District Board of Education is committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as pre-kindergarten; and,
- WHEREAS,** chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, or just two or three days a month – is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates; and
- WHEREAS,** good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation for Trenton Public School District students; and
- WHEREAS,** improving attendance and reducing chronic absence takes commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to particular challenges and strengths in each community; and
- WHEREAS,** chronic absence may cause lower third-grade reading proficiency, course failure and eventual dropout, and weaken our communities and our local economy; and
- WHEREAS,** chronic absence may exacerbate the achievement gap that separates low-income students from their peers, since students from low-income families are both more likely to be chronically absent and more likely to be affected academically by missing school; and
- WHEREAS,** schools and community partners can reach out more frequently to absent students to determine why they are missing school and what would help them attend more regularly. We can encourage broad community engagement and sustained civic action to help parents get their children to school every day; and
- WHEREAS,** all Trenton Public School students – even those who show up regularly – are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing for students who missed lessons; and
- WHEREAS,** chronic absence can be significantly reduced when Trenton schools, parents and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school; and
- RESOLVED,** that the Trenton Board of Education proclaims that attendance matters to our school students. We are committed to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all our school children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally and socially. Let's work together to get students to school on time every day.

Jason Redd
Board President

Jayne S. Howard
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Board Approval Date: March 21, 2016