

ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF TEACHER AND STUDENT ATTENDANCE

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 National Council of Teacher Quality's (NCTQ) Roll Call Report, teachers have a 95% percent attendance rate; and

WHEREAS, this is a slight national improvement over the 2014 Roll Call report, with teachers missing an average of 9.4 days in 2017 compared to 11 days in 2013; and

WHEREAS, teachers remain the most important in-school factor for student learning; and

WHEREAS, teacher chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason, can translate into students not being ready to read by the third grade, a negative impact on overall student achievement, and students not being on track to graduate on time; and

WHEREAS, in January 2020, the Alabama State Board of Education defined chronic student absenteeism as missing 18 or more days during the school year for any reason; and

WHEREAS, understanding the impact attendance has on student success, Alabama has included a chronic absenteeism metric within its school accountability system and *Every Student Succeeds Act* State Plan with a goal of reducing chronic absenteeism to no more than 5 percent by 2030 in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, nationally school districts spend approximately \$4 billion annually to hire substitute teachers; and

WHEREAS, according to the Institute of Education Sciences, more than three-quarters of public schools reported it is more difficult to get substitutes than it was before the pandemic and public schools are frequently relying on administrators, non-teaching staff, and teachers on their free periods to cover classes; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education does not currently receive reports on teacher absenteeism:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education is committed to improving student and teacher absenteeism as a fundamental strategy for increasing student achievement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education affirms that the collection and analysis of data is necessary for informing further policy recommendations for reducing student and teacher chronic absenteeism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education affirms that most teachers who take leave do so appropriately and acknowledges recent sick leave conversion changes to Tier II retirement is expected to have long term positive impacts on Alabama's teacher recruitment and retention work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education shall require local education agencies to submit student and teacher absenteeism data, by district and school level, to the Alabama State Department of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Department of Education shall annually make the student and teacher absenteeism data publicly available on its website.

Done this 10th day of November 2022