

Intradistrict Communication

DATE: August 29, 2024

TO: Principals and Assistant Principals

FROM: Michael Anderson, Associate Superintendent
Travis Hamblin, Director of Student Services
Michelle Reyes, Prevention Specialist, Student Services

SUBJECT: Attendance Awareness Month Materials 2024 & The Importance of September Attendance

SEPTEMBER is National Attendance Awareness Month



We would like to invite your school to participate with us as we celebrate Attendance Awareness Month to shine attention on the importance of attending school every day. We have chosen *Be Present, Be Powerful* as our campaign slogan. You can find ready-made resources to help you [plan](#) and celebrate [here](#). Teachers can access a [teaching attendance toolkit](#) from Attendance Works. Take advantage of Parent Square to send out information. Also included in the resources are attendance motivations and “Did you know?” facts you can share with your school community.

Why September?

Good attendance in the month of September is vital. It is a great predictor of attendance throughout the rest of the school year. The Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC) examined absences of students in September and students’ attendance for the rest of the year. They found that September absences predicted chronic absence (missing 10% of the school year) later in the year. The BERC [brief](#) shares the following insightful discoveries regarding September attendance:

“Students who missed 2 or more days in September were significantly more likely to be chronically absent for the year. In fact,

- Students who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely to be chronically absent than students who were absent fewer than 2 days
- Students who missed more than 4 days were over 16 times as likely to be chronically absent than students who were absent fewer than 2 days”.

Chronic absenteeism impacts not only the student negatively, but also school climate and instruction in the classroom. Coming soon is a website “glow-up” with attendance resources for schools, teachers, & families.

Questions? Contact Michelle Reyes at michelle.reyes@jordandistrict.org or 801-567-8205.