

CITY OF PHOENIX



PROCLAMATION

The City of Phoenix, in partnership with Valley of the Sun United Way, Attendance Works, and Read On Arizona, is launching Attendance Matters Phoenix, a citywide initiative promoting the message, “Here Today, Ready Tomorrow!” to highlight the importance of regular school attendance through consistent public messaging, community engagement, and support for students and families.

Chronic absence is a significant barrier to educational success, with regular attendance closely tied to academic achievement, reading proficiency, social development, and long-term opportunity. Phoenix has seen chronic absenteeism rates higher than the statewide average. Though the citywide rate has improved – from roughly 30 percent in 2022 to 23 percent in 2025 – the continuing need for strong support for students and families is still critical.

Students are more likely to attend school consistently when they feel safe, supported, connected, and engaged in their learning. Addressing chronic absenteeism requires prevention, early intervention, and collaboration among families, educators, community partners, and local leaders to identify barriers and develop solutions that help students succeed.

September provides an important opportunity to establish strong attendance routines at the beginning of the school year. The City of Phoenix proudly joins communities across the nation in recognizing Attendance Awareness Month. Phoenix is committed to strengthening citywide efforts that promote daily attendance and bring together families, educators, community leaders, and organizations to reduce chronic absenteeism. By working collaboratively to create safe and supportive learning environments, we can help every student arrive at school ready to learn and prepare for a successful future.

NOW, THEREFORE I, KATE GALLEG0, Mayor of the City of Phoenix, Arizona in accordance with the law, do hereby proclaim September 2026, as

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Phoenix and call upon all residents to recognize the importance of regular school attendance and join in creating a community where every student is supported in being “Here Today, Ready Tomorrow!”



Mayor Kate Gallego
City of Phoenix