

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS
CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOLS
ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Cherokee County Schools is committed to reducing chronic school absenteeism; and

WHEREAS, good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has developed guidelines in support of consistency for school attendance, to assist local school systems; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence is defined as missing 18 or more days of school for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences, or just two or three days a month, which is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates; and

WHEREAS, the definition of attendance has expanded “beyond the classroom” to include virtual and remote learning; and

WHEREAS, improving student attendance and reducing chronic absences takes commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to challenges and strengths in each community; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence exacerbates the achievement gap that separates low-income students from their peers; and

WHEREAS, student absenteeism undermines efforts to improve struggling schools; and

WHEREAS, *Alabama Literacy Act #2019-523* concentrates on systematic efforts to improve the reading skills of all public-school students in early literacy so that every student is reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, parents, and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Cherokee County Board of Education does hereby proclaim September 1-30, 2023, as ***Attendance Awareness Month*** and encourages our team members, stakeholders, and families to participate in this special celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of reducing chronic absenteeism, so that all children have an equitable opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

HEREBY GIVEN in the State of Alabama on the 1st day of September 2023.