

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019

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Gov. Noem proclaims September Attendance Awareness Month

PIERRE, S.D. – The 2019-20 school year is underway, and Governor Kristi Noem has proclaimed September [Attendance Awareness Month](#).

“It’s back-to-school season, which is an exciting time,” said South Dakota Secretary of Education Ben Jones. “The research tells us that half the students who miss two to four days of school in September will end up missing almost a month of school over the rest of the school year. With that in mind, I encourage students and families to start strong this month and stay strong with attendance for academic success.”

Chronic absenteeism is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out, with research indicating that, by 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

More information about the importance of consistent school attendance is available at <http://attendanceworks.org>.