



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Importance of Attendance Highlighted at Back-to-School Events**

*(Salem, Ore.)* – Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor today helped kick off the 2017-18 school year at two schools on the southern Oregon coast that have programs designed to boost attendance. Madison Elementary in Coos Bay and North Bay Elementary in North Bend both participate in the [Tribal Attendance Pilot Project](#) (TAPP), a collaboration between the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes that focuses on efforts to break down barriers that can lead to chronic absenteeism.

“We know that for students to do their best, they need to be in the classroom where they can learn from our excellent teachers,” Noor said. “It’s exciting to see how these schools are creating a culture where school attendance is prioritized and applauded.”

Each school has hired a family advocate with deep roots in the community, suggested by tribal leaders. The schools then tailored a plan for the conditions at each school, and implemented it, starting last school year. Funding for TAPP comes from a state grant which was renewed for the current biennium.

“We are encouraged by the results we are seeing with TAPP schools after just one year’s investment,” Noor said. “But chronic absenteeism can’t be solved overnight. That is why we are calling attention to the problem and how districts are addressing it.”

September is Attendance Awareness Month; today’s event is part of ODE’s effort to reduce chronic absenteeism in schools.

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