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Welcome back Adams 14! I want to welcome you back as we look forward to an exciting school year.

It was about this time last year that I joined Adams 14 as your new Superintendent. I signed up for the job because I believe that every child has the potential to achieve his or her dreams.

As you may know, there are a lot of changes happening here in Adams 14. Changes that, at times you may agree or disagree with, and that is okay. I am here for the 7,500 students whose bright future awaits them. We cannot continue to do the same thing year after year and expect a different result. We need change and I need your help.

Recent state data, continues to put Adams 14 as one of the lowest performing school districts in Colorado and I know we can do better.

So here is how you can help. This year, we will be focusing on three important areas: Attendance, Academics and Safety.

1. **Attendance.** This year, I set a goal for all Adams 14 Schools to have a 95% attendance rate. That means students cannot miss more than 5 days of school. Did you know that the average Adams 14 student missed 21 days of school last year? That is nearly one whole month. Additionally, many of our students are late to school. Dropping off your child late to school sends the wrong message to your child that school is not that important. So, I need your help! We will be launching a campaign this year called “*Less than five and be on-time.*” Because we know attendance is crucial to student success.
2. **Academics.** For the past five years, Adams 14 has not met state expectations for student achievement. To change that, we will be focusing on instructional time to increase the number of students who are at grade level. This year, we increased instructional time in reading and math and even created a re-teach and enrichment block which allows teachers to work with students even more, and offer additional support for students who need help. That is how we are going make sure our students are learning and growing.
3. **Safety.** It is my responsibility as your Superintendent and that of our school principals, to ensure the safety of your children while in Adams 14. School principals were instructed to follow correct safety protocols based on state statute and local board policy. That means, anyone approaching school doors must be buzzed in, and that they check-in at the front office. I know this may not feel welcoming, but we must make sure your children are safe in our schools.

With your help, I strongly believe we will achieve excellence in Adams 14. I know we have what it takes to become one of the best school districts in Colorado, but I need your help to achieve it. We cannot do it alone.

Join me and be a part of Team Adams 14. Thank you and I wish you all a very successful school year.

Dr. Javier Abrego
Superintendent