

Executive Proclamation

Rapid City, South Dakota

Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, The future of a community starts with its children; and

WHEREAS, Quality early education helps prepare the employees and leaders of tomorrow by providing a foundation for school readiness, fewer problems with truancy and delinquency, higher graduation rates, and higher earnings and success later in life; and

WHEREAS, Research confirms the return on investment in education, especially for the economically disadvantaged, is greatest during the preschool years, saving more than \$7, and as much as \$17 in public funds, for every \$1 spent; and

WHEREAS, The Starting Strong Rapid City Initiative is a scholarship program which addresses the need for quality preschool education and provides an opportunity for quality preschool from among approved programs that provide transportation, nutrition and highly qualified teachers; and

WHEREAS, The evaluation of Starting Strong by professional outside evaluators was outstanding and has always received high marks every year; and

WHEREAS, Starting Strong Rapid City is celebrating program success this year with their Seventh Annual Starting Strong Breakfast.

NOW, therefore, I, Steve Allender, Mayor of Rapid City, do hereby proclaim April 27, 2018, as

Starting Strong Day

In Rapid City and encourage all residents to take a vested interest in early childhood educational opportunities, which have been proven to benefit the community as a whole.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of Rapid City this 27th day of April, 2018.

Steve Allender, Mayor
Rapid City, South Dakota