



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: September 10, 2024

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Designating September As School Attendance Awareness Month

Whereas, good attendance is essential to student achievement, and we support the schools' dedication to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as prekindergarten and kindergarten; and

Whereas, chronic absence is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates; and

Whereas, improving attendance and reducing chronic absence takes commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to particular challenges and strengths in each community; and

Whereas, chronic absence predicts lower third-grade reading proficiency, course failure and eventual dropout, it weakens our communities and our local economy; and

Whereas, the impact of chronic absence hits low-income students and children of color particularly hard if they don't have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom and are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school; and

Whereas, attendance gaps among groups of students often turn into achievement gaps that undermine student success. Chronic absence particularly exacerbates the achievement gap that separates low-income students from their peers; and

Whereas, absenteeism also undermines efforts to improve struggling schools, since it's hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if students are not in class to benefit from them; and

Whereas, schools and community partners can reach out more frequently to absent students to determine what barriers they face to attending school; and

Whereas, health care providers can share the importance of school attendance with families and can offer proactive, preventive care to reduce absences; and

Whereas, schools and districts must do more to track, calculate and share the data on numbers of students who are chronically absent so that we can identify gaps and deliver the right interventions to the right students; and

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

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes September as “Attendance Awareness Month” and hereby commits to focusing on the reduction of chronic absenteeism, giving all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotional and socially.

Supervisors:

Gorin:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.