Joint Resolution No. 20-42
San Mateo County Board of Education
and
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
State of California

Recognizing September 2020 as Attendance Awareness Month

Whereas, the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools recognize that regular school attendance is essential in preparing students for success in college, career, and life; and

Whereas, chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of school for any reason, is a proven predictor of lower third-grade reading proficiency and course failure, as well as a leading indicator of students dropping out of school; and

Whereas, monitoring students who miss too much school during the coronavirus pandemic is more critical than ever; and

Whereas, distance learning further exposes the disproportionate impact of the pandemic due to COVID-19 on many families, including those from Black, Latinx, and Native American communities, who have unequal access to resources allowing children to benefit from virtual learning; and

Whereas, monitoring when students miss opportunities to learn, whether offered in person or through distance learning, is an invaluable tool for strengthening the efforts of educators, community partners, and families to reduce the adverse impact of this pandemic on the students most negatively affected; and

Whereas, leveraging attendance data collected prior to the mandated Shelter-in-Place from March 2020 through June 2020 will help districts and schools determine which students and families need more support, including food, physical, or mental health resources, access to learning materials or technology, and outreach for collaborative problem solving and additional support; and

Whereas, monitoring student participation in distance learning by contacting students and families, ensuring digital access and competency, establishing reciprocal relationships, creating a sense of connection and support, and providing options for student to participate in meaningful learning opportunities, will reveal the challenges needing to be addressed to ensure an equal opportunity to learn; and

Whereas, strengthening the transition to in-person learning will require the monitoring of data on chronic absenteeism and low participation, as well as adopting relationship-building and trauma-informed restorative practices to support student behavior and engagement;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby declare the month of September 2020 as Attendance Awareness Month and support activities to increase school attendance and learning time during the 2020-2021 school year.

SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Passed and Adopted on this Nineteenth Day of August 2020

SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

President