

Resolution Recognizing September 2017 as Attendance Awareness Month

WHEREAS, chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, or just two of three days a month – is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates,

WHEREAS, good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as prekindergarten and kindergarten,

WHEREAS, regular attendance contributes to improved third grade reading proficiency, greater high school success and fewer dropouts, thus strengthening our communities and our local economy,

WHEREAS, chronic absence is now a required reporting metric under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act,

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, since students from low-income families are both more likely to be chronically absent and more likely to be affected academically by missing school,

WHEREAS, all students are affected by chronic absenteeism when teachers must spend additional time reviewing for those who missed instruction,

WHEREAS, schools and districts must accurately track, calculate and share attendance data so that interventions are provided to students in a timely manner,

WHEREAS, efforts to improve struggling schools are strengthened by high rates of regular attendance,

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

WHEREAS, school attendance can be significantly improved when schools, parents and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address the obstacles that keep children from getting to school,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as the Superintendent of Santa Rosa City Schools, I proclaim that our schools will stand with the nation in recognizing September as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to improving school attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotional and socially.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Santa Rosa City Schools on August 23, 2017.

Laurie Fong, Clerk of the Board