

Resolution Recognizing September 2016 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 regular attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as 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 excessive absences exacerbate the achievement gap for students of poverty, since these students are more likely to miss school and to lack the resources to make up for lost academic time,

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 excessive absences takes commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to the 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 24, 2016.

Jen Klose, Clerk of the Board