

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NO. 3102

RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER 2019 AS ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Sacramento City Unified School District's Guiding Principle of Equity Access and Social Justice strives to ensure that all students are given an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options;

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

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

WHEREAS, chronic absence is now a required reporting metric under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and an indicator on the California State Dashboard;

WHEREAS, improving attendance and reducing chronic absence, particularly among underserved student populations, takes commitment, collaboration and tailored approaches to particular challenges and strengths in each community;

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

WHEREAS, the impact of chronic absence hits students in low-income communities, children of color, and other underserved student groups particularly hard if they do not have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom and are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school, including, but not limited to unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, and unstable or unaffordable housing;

WHEREAS, attendance gaps among groups of students often turn into achievement gaps that undermine student success.

WHEREAS, absenteeism also undermines efforts to improve struggling schools due to the difficulty of measuring improvement in classroom instruction if students are not in class to benefit;

WHEREAS, school and community partners can assist by reaching out to frequently absent students and their families to determine and address barriers that prevent them from attending school;

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

WHEREAS, Sacramento City Unified School District will track, calculate and share data on the number of students chronically absent in order to identify attendance gaps and deliver appropriate interventions to the right students;

WHEREAS, all students – even those who show up regularly – are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend valuable instructional time reviewing material with students who were absent; 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 Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education does hereby proclaim that our school district will stand with the nation in recognizing September as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotional and socially.

Specifically, we shall:

1. Raise public awareness and concern about the toxic impact of chronic absence through our youth-led Be HERE! Campaign;
2. Encourage broad community engagement and sustained civic action to help families get their children to school every day;
3. Partner with local organizations like WALKS Sacramento, California Afterschool Network (CAN) and City Year Sacramento to have school-based attendance incentives and programs throughout September to set the stage for a successful 2019-2020 school year;
4. Set a goal of 96% average daily attendance for the entire month of September 2019 for all of our schools;
5. Partner with the national leaders in chronic absence research, Attendance Works, to thoroughly assess district practices around attendance to create systemic change;
6. Work directly with school sites to engage staff, students and families in an ongoing effort to improve attendance;
7. Continue to analyze our data to identify which students and schools in our district are most affected by chronic absence, as well as to determine common attendance challenges, specific to our urban community, that need to be addressed;
8. Provide research-based, best practice, early interventions to students who are at risk of becoming or are already considered chronically absent,
9. Publish chronic absenteeism data, along with average daily attendance, for the district as a whole as well as by grade, school and student group.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 5th day of September, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

ATTESTED TO:

Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent

Jessie Ryan
President of the Board of Education