



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 9.3

Meeting Date: September 7, 2023

Subject: Approve Resolution No. 3341: Recognition of National Attendance Awareness Month, September 2023

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division:

Recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 3341: Recognition of Attendance Awareness Month, September 2023

Background/Rationale: Chronic absence has more than doubled since the start of the pandemic, from 8 million to an estimated 16 million students nationwide. That is one out of three students. Absenteeism has risen among all student groups, at every economic level. Black, Pacific Islander and Native American students, students living in poverty, students with disabilities and homeless students have been especially affected.

In Sacramento City Unified, student attendance was at an all-time low right after the pandemic with a chronic absence rate of nearly 37% in 2021-2022. The Care Team, which stands for Connect, Ask, Relate and Engage collaborated with site leaders and attendance staff to build relationships at sites and in the community. We created a culture of attendance and used real time data to make a positive impact for the first time since COVID. At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Chronic Absenteeism decreased district wide down to 28%. That is about 3,000 fewer students that miss so much school they have a higher chance of dropping out before graduation.

Research shows that two to four missed days in the first month of school can predict chronic absence throughout the year. That is why we are here today. For the past 4 years we have recognized September as Attendance Awareness Month, this will be our 5th. Every day a student is in school is an opportunity to learn, build relationships and access support. The good news is that efforts to improve engagement and attendance

can benefit our entire society. We all prosper when SCUSD students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, neighborhood, economic status or family income, have the opportunity to gain skills and abilities that prepare them for success in school, work and life.

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): Integrated Supports

Documents Attached:

1. Resolution No. 3341

Estimated Time of Presentation: 5 minutes

Submitted by: Jennifer Kretschman, Director, Student Attendance
& Engagement

Approved by: Lisa Allen, Interim Superintendent

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 3341

**Attendance Awareness Month Resolution
September 2023**

WHEREAS, the nation is experiencing a school absenteeism crisis, brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and other challenges that have eroded positive conditions for learning at school, including physical and emotional health and safety; a sense of belonging, connection and support; academic challenges and engagement; and adults and peers with social emotional competency, which motivate students and families to show up and engage; and

WHEREAS, reducing chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school for any reason) requires taking a comprehensive trauma-informed approach that starts with prevention and early intervention, including developing routines and trusting relationships that create a sense of belonging rather than responding with punitive action, which research finds is not particularly effective; and

WHEREAS, improving attendance and engagement takes schools, families, elected leaders and other community partners working together to rebuild regular and trusting communications and to identify and address barriers to being in school; and

WHEREAS, taking attendance daily in a caring, consistent manner is essential to identifying when students begin to miss too much school, and for engaging students and families, as early as possible, with needed support and resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Sacramento City Unified School District stands with the nation in recognizing September as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to focusing on reducing absenteeism and addressing the factors that cause students to miss school in order to ensure all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. We recognize that we must work together to build an engaging school environment that motivates attendance and sends the message that learning can and must continue.

Specifically, we will:

- 1. Engage students, parents, families and the community in promoting good school attendance and*
- 2. Put students first in all we do.*
- 3. Share and monitor chronic absence data*
- 4. Recognize and appreciate good and improved attendance*
- 5. Forge partnerships to ensure easy access to physical and mental health services*
- 6. Work with families, schools and community members to identify barriers to attending regularly and co-create solutions.*
- 7. Advocate for stronger policies and public investment.*

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 7th day of September, 2023, by the following vote:

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

Lisa Allen
Secretary of the Board of Education

Chinua Rhodes
President of the Board of Education