



Wellness & Engagement

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Resolution No. 2026/27-03

Date: August 26, 2026

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas, regular school attendance is essential for academic success and is a strong predictor of student achievement, graduation, and post-secondary readiness;

Whereas, chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of school days for any reason—including excused, unexcused, and disciplinary absences—places students at serious academic risk;

Whereas, data from school districts across California and the nation show that chronic absenteeism disproportionately affects students of color, students experiencing poverty, foster youth, homeless youth, English learners, and students with disabilities, contributing to persistent opportunity and achievement gaps;

Whereas, the California Education Code (§48200 et seq.) mandates compulsory school attendance and requires school districts to monitor and support student attendance to ensure access to educational opportunities for all students;

Whereas, the Santa Rosa City School District Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5113.1 emphasizes that promoting regular attendance is a shared responsibility of schools, families, and the broader community, and calls for proactive and culturally responsive approaches to address chronic absenteeism;

Whereas, the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires state and local education agencies to track and report chronic absenteeism as an indicator of school quality and student success, and to take meaningful action where disparities exist;

Whereas, recent legislative updates to the California Education Code, including SB 691, effective July 1, 2025, shift the focus toward preventative and supportive strategies for attendance, emphasizing that school personnel provide information on available mental health and supportive services to families to address barriers to attendance;

Whereas, Attendance Awareness Month each September offers an opportunity to increase public awareness about the importance of daily attendance and mobilize efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism across all grade levels;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Santa Rosa City School District Board of Education proclaims September as **Attendance Awareness Month** and commits to:

1. **Promoting Awareness:** Engaging students, families, educators, and the community in messaging campaigns that emphasize the importance of regular attendance and its connection to learning, graduation, and lifelong success.
2. **Addressing Disproportionality:** Analyzing and disaggregating attendance data by student group to identify and address racial, socioeconomic, and other disparities in absenteeism rates.
3. **Monitoring Progress:** Setting measurable goals, monitoring attendance data at the school and district level, and using data to drive decisions about interventions and supports.
4. **Implementing Effective Strategies:** Supporting site-level efforts to build a positive school climate, implement early warning systems, engage families, and remove systemic barriers to attendance.
5. **Collaborating with Stakeholders:** Partnering with families, community organizations, health agencies, and local government to address underlying causes of chronic absenteeism, including transportation, mental health, and housing instability.
6. **Celebrating Success:** Recognizing students, staff, and schools that demonstrate significant improvements or consistently strong attendance.

Be it further resolved that the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism are embedded in district and school improvement plans, aligned with state and federal accountability requirements, and reported annually to the Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of Santa Rosa City Schools, on this 26th day of August 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: ____ NOES: ____ ABSENT: ____ ABSTAIN: ____

Sarah Jenkins, Clerk of the Board

Date