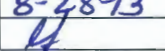


OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

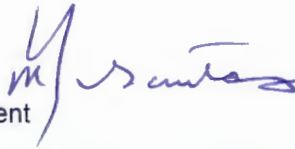
Board of Education

August 28, 2013

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	13-1925
Introduction Date:	8/28/13
Enactment Number:	13-1874
Enactment Date:	8-28-13
By:	

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Gary Yee, Acting Superintendent,  
Maria Santos, Deputy Superintendent  
Curtiss Sarikey, Associate Superintendent



SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 1314-0020 Attendance Awareness Month

**ACTION REQUEST**

Adoption of this resolution in support naming September as Attendance Awareness Month.

**BACKGROUND**

The Education Code requires children between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend school everyday. Working with partners that include the Oakland Education Cabinet and Attendance Works, OUSD is focused on reducing chronic absenteeism in order to provide greater educational outcomes for students.

**DISCUSSION**

Students who miss 10 days or more in a single school year are considered chronically absent. Students who miss too much school fall behind academically. OUSD has prioritized attendance in the strategic plan and wants to reduce chronic absenteeism to 5% or less. Engaging families and communities about the importance of attendance will help us reach this goal.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adoption of Resolution No. 1314-0020 naming September as Attendance Awareness Month in the Oakland Unified School District.

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
August 28, 2013

Legislative File	
File ID Number:	13-1925
Introduction Date:	8/28/13
Enactment Number:	13-1874
Enactment Date:	8/28/13
By:	02

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Resolution No. 1314-0020

-Proclamation of September as Attendance Awareness Month-

**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 kindergarten,

**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** improving attendance and reducing chronic absence 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, weakens our communities and our local economy,

**WHEREAS** more than 1 out of 10 students was chronically absent in Oakland last year and in some elementary, middle and high schools, the percentage of chronically absent students was 20% or higher,

**WHEREAS** the impact of chronic absence hits low-income students and children of color particularly hard if they don't have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom and are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school – such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, unstable or unaffordable housing,

**WHEREAS**, chronic absence 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. Absenteeism also undermines efforts to improve struggling schools, since it is hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if students are not in class to benefit from them,

**WHEREAS** schools and community partners can reach out more frequently to absent students to determine why they are missing school and what would help them attend more regularly,

**WHEREAS** schools and districts can do more use data on chronic absence to engage community partners in targeting community resources to the schools and students who need available supports the most,

**WHEREAS** all students – even those who show up regularly – are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing for students who missed lessons,

**WHEREAS** chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, parents 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 as the Board of Oakland Unified School District, we proclaim that our schools 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, emotionally and socially.

Specifically we will:

1. Make clear that improved student attendance is one of our school district's top priorities among all of our teachers and school leaders
2. Use data to raise public awareness and track progress and assure accountability toward the attendance goals already adopted in our Thriving Students strategic plan: a) reducing chronic absence to 5% or less of students at a school b) ensuring 85% of OUSD students attend school for 95% of school days annually, and c) seeking an 98% Average Daily Attendance rate.
3. Partner with the Oakland Education Cabinet Attendance Collaborative to produce and disseminate attendance toolkit offering a wide array of sources to help schools and communities improve student attendance.
4. Engage parents and the community – including civic and elected leaders, local businesses, clergy members and nonprofit organizations – to help us spread the message that good attendance matters and help us come up with solutions to ensure all children are in school as much as possible.

Passed by the following vote:

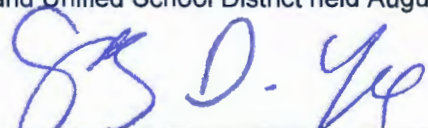
AYES: Anne Campbell Washington, James Harris, Jody London, Christopher Dobbins, Roseann Torres, Vice President Jumoke Hinton Hodge, President David Kakishiba

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held August 28, 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Yee, Ed.D.  
Secretary, Board of Education  
Oakland Unified School District

File ID Number: 13-1925  
Introduction Date: 8/28/13  
Enactment Number: 13-1874  
Enactment Date: 8/28/13  
By: GA