

August 20, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – August 20, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 2 in Recognition of Attendance Awareness Month, September 2024

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 2 as part of the regular County Board meeting on August 20, 2024; and further recommend that the Board recognize September 2024, as Attendance Awareness Month in order to recognize that regular school attendance is essential to student achievement, and Attendance Awareness Month kicks off the school year on a positive note by highlighting the importance of school attendance on students' academic success. School districts and charter schools are encouraged to create attendance awareness campaigns that meet the diverse and unique needs of their educational partners. Local Education Agencies are also encouraged to utilize the myriad resources offered by LACOE staff to create a safe, caring and inclusive school climate in which all students can thrive.

Board Resolution No. 2 is attached.

Next Steps:

- Post the September is Attendance Awareness Month Resolution on social media.
- Publicize the September is Attendance Awareness Month Resolution via Student Support Services listservs.
- Share this information at the CWA Café and other communities of practice across Student Support Services.
- Update and release an Attendance Toolkit to support districts and charters for beginning of the year practices and various efforts to continue to promote attendance throughout the school year.

BOARD RESOLUTION

No. 2: 2024-2025

Attendance Awareness Month, September 2024

- WHEREAS** Research reveals that regular school attendance is essential to student achievement, and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, starting as early as pre-kindergarten, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten; and
- WHEREAS** chronic absenteeism, which continues to be defined as missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences, as well as suspensions, is a proven predictor of poor academic performance and a leading indicator of students dropping out; and
- WHEREAS** students who move frequently by no choice of their own, including migrant, newcomer, homeless, foster, active military families, adjudicated youth, and students receiving special education services, may have busing or mobility challenges; and
- WHEREAS** students living in poverty are more likely to face systemic barriers to attending school – such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, poor nutrition, unstable or unaffordable housing, and lack of internet connectivity or electronic equipment, which leads to little or no participation in any offered alternative educational options; and
- WHEREAS** chronic absenteeism exacerbates opportunity, access, and achievement gaps for our students living in poverty who are more likely to be chronically absent and affected academically by missing school across all settings; and
- WHEREAS** chronic absenteeism undermines efforts to improve academically struggling schools since it is hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if students are not physically in class, not completing assignments, and/or not engaged in alternative educational opportunities; and
- WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Board of Education, Los Angeles County School Attendance Review Board, school districts, charter schools, and educational partners can reach out proactively to students with a history of chronic absence to identify and address barriers and provide support that will help them attend more regularly to connect with instructors and engage in meaningful instruction; and
- WHEREAS** chronic absenteeism can be significantly reduced when schools, families and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address barriers that keep children from attending school; and

WHEREAS effective strategies for improving attendance include, but are not limited to, monitoring and sharing attendance data; partnering with students, parents, grandparents, guardians and other family members; and deploying resources that address physical and mental health, safety, transportation, connectivity, and other issues that may cause a student to repeatedly miss school; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognizes that good attendance is essential to student achievement, and greater attention is needed to improve student attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaims September 2024 as “Attendance Awareness Month”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Office of Education is committed to serving and supporting all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) serving Transitional Kindergarten through grade 12 students to decrease chronic absenteeism across our county by at least 10% by June 2025 compared to the 2021-2022 school year; and

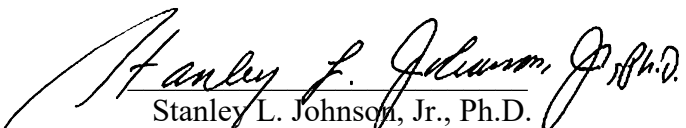
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Office of Education has expanded child welfare and attendance support, training, outreach, and technical assistance to address chronic absenteeism and a myriad of other concerns, as LEAs continue to respond to the unprecedented impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on our students, families, schools, and LEAs countywide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education encourages each LEA to set ambitious and equity-driven attendance goals, monitor absence data and join together with community partners to prevent and reduce chronic absenteeism, address barriers to attendance, take advantage of the robust training options offered through LACOE, including Student Support Services, Child Welfare and Attendance Senior Program Specialists to reduce chronic absenteeism and ensure that all children are provided the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive whether in person or through alternative educational options, as appropriate.

ADOPTED this 20th day of August 2024, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent



Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.
Board President