



Pacifica School District

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Preparing Students for an Evolving World

www.pacificasd.org

MEMORANDUM

Integrated Services and Human Resources

Meeting of

09-14-2016

TO: Wendy S. Tukloff, Ed.D., Superintendent
For Board of Trustees

FROM: Ray Avila, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Resolution Endorsing Attendance Awareness Month: 2016-09-14-A**
(Action)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt Resolution No. 2016-09-14-C endorsing September 2016 as Attendance Awareness Month.

Background

Celebrated for the first time in September 2013, Attendance Awareness Month is a nationwide event recognizing the connection between school attendance and academic achievement. The Pacifica School District joins schools and communities across San Mateo County in recognizing the importance of regular school attendance in this Annual Attendance Awareness Month. Adopting this resolution supports the fact that attendance matters.

The start of the school year presents an important opportunity to voice an urgent concern: too many children missing too many days of school. Even children in the early grades have been found to be chronically absent—missing 10% or more of their school days. Children who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to read proficiently by the end of third grade and are more likely to have poor attendance in later grades. Chronic absence is a problem we can solve when schools and families work together. The district will continue to monitor all attendance, excused and unexcused, and report students who have missed 10% or more of school for the school year. Sites will increase awareness by reminding families of the importance of regular attendance in their newsletters, parent meetings, and daily announcements. As an example, sites acknowledged perfect attendance for the 2015-2016 school year by giving students who earned this honor a special certificate of recognition signed by the Superintendent for the San Mateo County Office of Education. We hope this recognition will continue.

The Pacifica School District believes that attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves; regular attendance promotes success in school and in life.