

Proclamation

***THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2013 AS***

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools in values and recognizes positive school attendance as a critical element for student success; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism, defined as a student missing ten percent or more days of school, is one of the strongest indicators of future dropout; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, one out of ten students in kindergarten and first grade are chronically absent; and

WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism in kindergarten predicts low academic achievement in later grades and, in one study, three out of four students who are chronically absent in the sixth grade never graduated high school; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial to address the problem of chronic absence with our youngest students before they slip off track academically and poor attendance habits become entrenched; and

WHEREAS, increasing school attendance requires community wide involvement and begins with an awareness of the cumulative negative effects of chronic absence on academic and social success; and

WHEREAS, daily attendance has been identified as an essential component in a child's early learning and contributes to a child's ability to read proficiently by third grade, a critical turning point when a child shifts from learning to read to reading to learn;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates September 2013 as Attendance Awareness Month and supports activities to increase awareness of the importance of daily attendance, especially in the early grades of pre-kindergarten through third grade.

Dated: September 10, 2013

Supervisors:

Don Horsley, President

Dave Pine

Carole Groom

Warren Slocum

Adrienne J. Tissier

Attest: Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors