

# PROCLAMATION

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**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2014 AS**

## **Attendance Awareness Month**

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*WHEREAS, good school attendance is essential to pupil achievement and graduation, and systematic approaches are needed to reduce chronic absenteeism rates in California, with a focus starting as early as kindergarten; and*

*WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism, defined as a student missing ten percent of the school year or about 18 days a year, is one of the strongest indicators of future dropout and that nationwide, one out of every ten students in kindergarten and first grade are chronically absent; and*

*WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism in kindergarten predicts low academic achievement in later grades and that one study found that students who were chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of third grade, a critical benchmark that measures a student's future ability to learn; 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, attendance has been identified as a critical component to The Big Lift Plan that contributes to student success in the earliest stages of life,*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates SEPTEMBER 2014 as ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH and supports activities that increase the awareness of the importance of daily attendance, especially in prekindergarten through third grade.*

***Dated: September 9, 2014***

***SUPERVISORS:***

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***DAVE PINE, President***

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***CAROLE GROOM***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***DON HORSLEY***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***WARREN SLOCUM***

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***ADRIENNE J. TISSIER***



***Attest:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
***Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors***