

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2017 AS

Attendance Awareness Month

WHEREAS, good school attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and systematic approaches are needed to reduce chronic absenteeism rates in California, with a focus starting as early as pre-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, The Big Lift™ has identified increased attendance as one of the four pillars critical to improve 3rd grade reading proficiency rates across San Mateo County and seeks to reduce chronic absence in the early grades by 50%; and

WHEREAS, to date, The Big Lift has implemented the San Mateo County Attendance Matters Initiative with the Harvard Kennedy School, which has already resulted in a 15% reduction in chronic absenteeism and a cumulative gain of 3,500 days of attendance countywide; and The Big Lift will soon launch a partnership with In Class Today to provide customized and directed messaging to parents about attendance; 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,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates **SEPTEMBER 2017 as ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH** and supports activities that increase the awareness of the importance of daily attendance, especially in pre-kindergarten through third grade.

Dated: September 12, 2017

SUPERVISORS:

DON HORSLEY, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

CAROLE GROOM

WARREN SLOCUM

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors