

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2324-5**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools join educational communities throughout the country to recognize September as Attendance Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2020-21 school year, at least [10.1 million students](#) nationwide were chronically absent; and

**WHEREAS**, chronically absent is defined as missing 10 percent or more school days for any reason - excused and unexcused absences and suspensions; and

**WHEREAS**, school attendance is directly linked to students making connections with both their peers and school staff, to nurturing a sense of belonging, and to academic performance; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy attendance habits can be established as early as preschool and kindergarten. Thriving attendance supports students being proficient readers by third grade, having higher achievement rates in middle, and higher graduation rates at the high school level ; and

**WHEREAS**, absenteeism has risen among all student groups, at every economic level. Black, Latino and Native American students, students living in poverty, students with disabilities and English language learners have been especially affected; and

**WHEREAS**, monitoring and tracking attendance is key to strategically responding to the academic and social losses experienced by millions of students, including the development of skills such as listening, paying attention, problem-solving and self-regulation, all which are needed to grow and learn; and

**WHEREAS**, the chronic absenteeism rate for Santa Clara County in the 2021-22 school year was 19 percent compared to the state percentage of 30; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's [Youth Health and Wellness department](#) offers [attendance and engagement supports](#) to schools and districts; and

**WHEREAS**, other partnerships to support attendance and engagement include the [Santa Clara County Attendance Collaborative \(SCCAC\)](#) and [Attendance Works](#); and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's [Steps to Success](#) initiative also provides attendance support for early childhood education; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools acknowledge the importance of healthy school attendance and its links to student success and hereby recognizes September as Attendance Awareness Month.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 6, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: President Chon and Trustees Berta, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Rocha

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Vice President Sreekrishnan



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Victoria Chon, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools