



MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
RESOLUTION 23/24-(#64) In Support of National Foster Care Month

WHEREAS National Foster Care Month was established more than 30 years ago to bring foster care issues to the forefront of the national focus, highlight the importance of permanency for every child, and recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, advocates, and educators have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home, and the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 437,000 children living in foster care nationally and more than 60,000 in the foster care system in California in 2024; and

WHEREAS many children in California's foster care system experience frequent placement changes, with 15% of foster youth experiencing 5 or more placements and 44% experiencing 3 or more placements; and

WHEREAS children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families; and

WHEREAS half of all youth in foster care have endured four or more adverse childhood experiences; and

WHEREAS, unique challenges can prevent students in foster care from attending school, making them more likely to be chronically absent than other underserved youth due to home placement changes, school transfers, court hearings, and parental visitation; and

WHEREAS, the statewide average high school graduation rate is 83%, but youth in foster care have a 53% on-time graduation rate; and

WHEREAS, over 4,000 foster youth "age out" of foster care in California every year, and many lack a legal permanent connection to an adult or family member to offer guidance and support in securing affordable housing, obtaining health insurance, pursuing higher education, and acquiring adequate employment; and

WHEREAS, foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 19 months; and

WHEREAS, foster youth experience rates of homelessness ranging from 11% to 38% in California, disproportionately higher than the general population; and

WHEREAS, May is designated as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, advocacy community, mentors, and educators for the positive impact they have on the lives of foster youth; and

WHEREAS, much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MDUSD Board of Education

- (1) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the educational challenges that children face in the foster care system;
- (2) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster care system;
- (3) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;
- (4) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in foster care;
- (5) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system;

AYES: NOES: ABSENCES: ABSTENTIONS:

Erin McFerrin, Board President

Linda Mayo, Board Vice President

Cherise Khaund, Board Member

Debra Mason, Board Member

Keisha Nzewi, Board Member

Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent

Resolution 23/24-#64

Adopted at the meeting of the MDUSD Governing Board of Education on 4/24/2024
