



**MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD  
RESOLUTION 21/22-4**

**Attendance Awareness Month September 2021**

**WHEREAS** daily attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to ensuring that all students have access to rich and supportive learning opportunities during distance learning and in-person instruction,

**WHEREAS** The alarming attendance challenge created by Covid-19 means that districts, schools and our stakeholders will need to take a strategic, transformative and long-term approach to re-connecting with students and families. The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in huge losses in school-based learning opportunities, especially for communities hit hardest by the pandemic. Early data shows that chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school) is likely to have dramatically increased, potentially doubling in size from one out of six to one out of three students. Black, Latino and Native American students, students living in poverty, students with disabilities and English language learners have been especially affected.

**WHEREAS** this year Mt. Diablo Unified School District is encouraging all stakeholders of our school community to put students first by practicing empathy, and providing all students with a school environment that promotes equity, unity and engages students in a variety of high quality culturally responsive instruction.

**WHEREAS** supporting regular attendance and monitoring absenteeism reduces educational inequities,

**WHEREAS** building strong, trusting relationships that promote belonging is fundamental to improving student achievement and participation,

**WHEREAS** students are more likely to engage in/attend school if they feel safe (emotionally & physically), feel connected and supported, and are encouraged to believe they can learn and achieve,

**WHEREAS** reducing health related absences is key because illness is one of the primary reasons students miss school,

**WHEREAS** poor participation is a problem that we can resolve when the whole community collaborates with families to support transitions in school,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District proclaims that our schools will stand with the nation in recognizing September as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to our continued focus on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all students an equitable opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.

Specifically, the Mt. Diablo Unified School District will:

- Continue to support school site staff to regularly monitor attendance to prevent chronic absenteeism and identify students who may be struggling with attendance and academic achievement.
- Continue to partner with the Contra Costa County Office of Education and use the resources from Attendance Works to develop incentive programs and strategies to reduce absenteeism and promote more student engagement.
- Engage families, schools, community partners, and use a variety of media to help spread the message that, “We will never forget Covid-19 and how it affected our lives and our school experiences. However, now it is time to rebound strong by attending school daily!

AYES: NOES: ABSENCES: ABSTENTIONS:

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Cherise Khaund, Board President

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Debra Mason, Board Vice President

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Linda Mayo, Board Member

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Keisha Nzewi, Board Member

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Erin McFerrin, Board Member

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Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent

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*Adopted at the regular meeting of the Governing Board of Education on 08/25/2021*