

**MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 20/21 #79**

Excused Absences For Issues Related To Mental Health

WHEREAS, in Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD), the mental health and well-being of students remains and will always be a top priority of this district; and

WHEREAS, suicide remains the second leading cause of death for students aged 15-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, MDUSD is committed to continuing District efforts to prevent, intervene early and address youth suicide as well as creating strategic planning to enhance student wellness; and

WHEREAS, in MDUSD, wellness and mental health district initiatives are student-centered and emphasize reducing mental health stigma and improving mental health awareness of students and school communities; and

WHEREAS, in the era of COVID-19 the mental health and well-being of students is already burdened by new and challenging learning and home environments; and

WHEREAS, other schools in California, such as Fresno Unified School District, have for many years implemented students' wellness days, in instances where a student's mental health required them to be absent from school for a day.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District understands the definition of "personal illness" in the context of excused absences under California Education Code 48205 to include "for the purpose of physical, mental, or behavioral health reasons"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District will work with school sites to inform all students of the ability to have excused absences for mental health reasons.

AYES: NOES: ABSENCES: ABSTENTIONS:

Cherise Khaund, Board President

Debra Mason, Board Vice President

Linda Mayo, Board Member

Erin McFerrin, Board Member

Keish Nzewi, Board Member

Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent

Resolution 20/21-79
Adopted at the meeting of the MDUSD Governing Board of Education on 06/23/2021
