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- Information Item Only
 - Approval on Consent Agenda
 - Conference (for discussion only)
 - Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
 - Conference/Action
 - Action
 - Public Hearing

Division : Equity, Access and Excellence

Recommendation : Approve Resolution No. 3166: Recognition of Attendance Awareness Month, September 2020.

Background/Rationale : We want to emphasize the importance of good school attendance by recognizing September as Attendance Awareness Month. When students are not logged in to school, they are not learning what is being taught and missing out on live instruction. Also, they are not connecting with their peers or important adults in their life.

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NO. 3166

Proclamation of September as Attendance Awareness Month

WHEREAS, good attendance and engagement is even more essential to student achievement and graduation because of the lost opportunities to learning that have occurred as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, recording and monitoring attendance daily and for different types of learning opportunities (virtual, in-person or a blend) is essential to identifying when students begin to miss too much school; and

WHEREAS, taking a positive problem-solving approach to reducing absenteeism requires expanding attendance data to include reviewing chronic absence prior to school closure, availability of working contact information for families, access to technology and most importantly positive relationships; and

WHEREAS, promoting attendance requires noticing - as soon as possible - when students are starting to miss too much school in order to engage students and families, identify and offer needed support and early intervention resources; and

WHEREAS, ensuring an equal opportunity to learn requires using data to detect inequitable patterns of absenteeism by school, grade, and student population; and

WHEREAS, research conducted prior to Covid-19 indicates that monitoring when students miss 10% of learning opportunities in a month, or multiple days in a week, can help to identify students and families as well as schools in need of outreach and additional support; and

WHEREAS, improving attendance and reducing absenteeism takes schools, families and community partners working together to identify and address factors contributing to students missing school, particularly a lack of digital access, mental and physical health services, access to basic economic supports including food and housing, or in some cases, the absence of engaging curriculum or biased approaches to school discipline; and

WHEREAS, partnering with students and families to monitor attendance as well as understand and address barriers to attendance requires building and sustaining caring relationships and regular communications in the home language spoken by families; and

WHEREAS, the critical role that families play in supporting student learning is even more essential when school is offered through distance learning; and

WHEREAS, reducing absenteeism requires taking a public health approach that begins with prevention and early intervention, and adopting trauma-informed approaches rather than responding with punitive action; and

WHEREAS, the impact of absenteeism expands the achievement gap that separates students living in low-income communities and many students of color (Black, Hispanic, Latinx, Native American and Pacific Islanders) from their peers, particularly if they don't have resources to make up for lost learning time and face systemic barriers to showing up, which have been further exacerbated by the economic and health impacts of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, schools and districts must do more to track, calculate and share the data on

6. Hold schools and/or districts harmless for funding decisions based on attendance and enrollment data for the 2020-2021 school year.

7. Provide tiered engagement strategies and interventions to re-engage students and families who participate less than 40% or miss 3 school days in any given week.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 17th day of September, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

Jessie Ryan
President of the Board of Education

ATTESTED TO:

Jorge A. Aguilar
Secretary of the Board of Education