

**ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PROCLAMATION**



September as “Attendance Awareness Month”

WHEREAS, good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as prekindergarten and kindergarten;

WHEREAS, chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absences, or just two or three days a month – is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates;

WHEREAS, chronic absence predicts lower third-grade reading proficiency, course failure and eventual dropout, it weakens our communities and our local economy;

WHEREAS, attendance gaps among groups of students often turn into achievement gaps that undermine student success. Chronic absence particularly exacerbates the achievement gap that separates low-income students from their peers, since students from low-income families are both more likely to be chronically absent and more likely to be affected academically by missing school;

WHEREAS, absenteeism also undermines efforts to improve struggling schools, since it’s hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if students are not in class to benefit from them;

WHEREAS, all students – even those who show up regularly – are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing for students who missed lessons;

WHEREAS, chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, families and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Orange Unified School District proclaims September as “Attendance Awareness Month.” We hereby commit to focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism to give all children an equitable opportunity to learn, grow and thrive academically, emotionally and socially.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2020

John Ortega, President

Kathryn Moffat, Vice President

Kristin Erickson, Clerk

Alexia Deligianis-Brydges, Member

Rick Ledesma, Member

Andrea Yamasaki, Member