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**RESOLUTION
OF THE
KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

This Proclamation designates September 2026 as School Attendance Awareness Month, and would encourage public officials, educators, and community members throughout Kern County to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

WHEREAS, good school attendance is essential to pupil achievement and graduation, and systemic approaches are needed to reduce chronic absenteeism rates in Kern County, with a focus starting as early as pre-kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence, missing 10 percent or more of school, which can be just two or three days a month, for any reason, including both excused and unexcused absences, is a proven predictor of academic difficulty; and

WHEREAS, a pupil's chronic absence is a predictor of below-grade-level reading proficiency by the third grade and course failure and eventual dropout later in that pupil's career, and chronic absence thereby weakens our communities and our local economies; and

WHEREAS, the impact of chronic absence affects low-income pupils and children of color particularly hard if they do not have the resources to make up for lost time in the classroom. Low-income pupils and children of color are more likely to face systemic barriers to getting to school, such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, unstable or unaffordable housing, and even unfair disciplinary policies; and

WHEREAS, chronic absence exacerbates the achievement gap that separates low-income pupils from their peers, since pupils from low-income families are both more likely to be chronically absent and more likely to be affected academically by missing school. Absenteeism also undermines efforts to improve struggling schools, since it is hard to measure improvement in classroom instruction if pupils are not in class to benefit from the improvement efforts; and

WHEREAS, improving school attendance and reducing chronic absence take commitment, collaboration, and tailored approaches to address particular challenges and strengths in each community; and

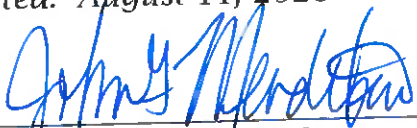
WHEREAS, all pupils, even those who show up regularly, are affected by chronic absence because teachers must spend time reviewing for pupils who missed lessons; and

WHEREAS, school attendance can be improved, and chronic absence significantly reduced, when schools, parents, 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 by the Kern County Board of Education thereof concurring, that the Board designate September 2026 as School Attendance Awareness Month in Kern County, and encourage public officials, educators, and community members to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

BY ORDER OF THE KERN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dated: August 11, 2026



John G. Mendiburu, Ed.D.
Ex Officio Secretary
Kern County Superintendent of Schools