FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND
2015 MAY 14 PM 12

Approved as to Form and Legality

City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. 85585 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 1014 WHICH WOULD CREATE A GRANTS PROGRAM THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SCHOOLS SEEKING TO RESOLVE CHRONIC ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS FOR CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 3RD GRADE

WHEREAS, students who are chronically absent between Kindergarten and 3rd grade face significant challenges to becoming proficient at grade level reading skills, due to the loss of class time in which they miss key elements in the pedagogical sequencing of literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, a child who has been chronically absent continues to face these academic challenges throughout their educational career and is far more likely to drop out of school than their peers, and this lack of educational attainment can often lead to contact with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, only 17 percent of chronically absent kindergartners and first graders in California read proficiently by grade 3 and pupils who do not read proficiently by grade 3 are four times more likely to drop out of school, and children who drop out of school cost the state more than $46 billion each year, including more than $1 billion in juvenile crime costs alone; and

WHEREAS, ninety percent of elementary school pupils with severe attendance problems, missing 36 or more days in the school year, are estimated to be from low-income families; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013–14 school year, 250,000 elementary school pupils and 1 in 10 pupils from low-income families were chronically absent, missing 10 percent or more of the school year; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013–14 school year, African American elementary school pupils were the highest subgroup, including homeless pupils, to be truant and these pupils are chronically truant at four times the rate of all other pupils; and

WHEREAS, in the 2012–13 school year, one in five, or 744,085, elementary school pupils were truant, an increase of 1.2 percent from the 2011–12 school year; and

WHEREAS, when a student is absent, the school loses funding that is attributed to that student's Average Daily Attendance, causing fewer resources to be available at that school; and

WHEREAS, in the 2010–11 school year, California schools lost $1.4 billion in average daily attendance funding due to pupil absences and California school districts have lost over $3.5 billion between the 2010–11 and 2013–14 school years; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1014, authored by Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, would provide grants for schools seeking to reduce their chronic absenteeism by providing Early Intervention Attendance Grant funds which can be used to pay for training programs for school and attendance staff, for phone outreach programs and for outreach advocate positions who will work with parents to determine barriers to attendance and provide resources to overcome the obstacles that have detrimental on their child's education; and

WHEREAS, because early intervention in addressing chronic absenteeism prevents a student from ever getting academically behind, Assembly Bill 1014 will only fund grants to programs supporting students in Kindergarten to 3rd grade; and

WHEREAS, early intervention efforts have proven fiscally and academically positive, such as an effort by the Berkeley Unified School District in 2009-2010, in which the district spent $100,000 on attendance programs to reduce chronic absenteeism, to which they generated $500,000 additional dollars in Average Daily Attendance funding; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council of Oakland strongly supports the passage of California Assembly Bill 1014.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: MAY 19 2015

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL-WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID AND PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY – 7

NOES – Ø
ABSENT – Ø
ABSTENTION – Ø
Excused - Reid - 1

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California