

[Supporting School Attendance and the “Be Here” Campaign]

Resolution supporting the efforts to decrease chronic absenteeism and promote belonging in elementary, middle, and high schools; and supporting the San Francisco Unified School District and Spark*SF Public School’s “Be Here Campaign.”

WHEREAS, Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student missing 10% or more of the school year for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences, which equates to approximately two days per month; and

WHEREAS, The consequences of chronic absenteeism are severe, with students at higher risk of academic failure, dropping out, and negative impacts on their overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, Despite some initial improvements since the pandemic closures, chronic absenteeism remains much higher than it was before the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) made strides in reducing chronic absenteeism, in the last few years, from 29% of students in 2022 to 23% of students in 2024. Before the pandemic, chronic absenteeism hovered around 14%; and

WHEREAS, While the overall rate of chronic absenteeism is 23% in 2024, certain student groups have much greater rates, including 43% of foster system involved and homeless students, and 51% of African American and Pacific Islander students; and

WHEREAS, In 2024, SFUSD students missed 671,598 days of school, equating to nearly \$55 million in lost revenue from the State of California, which could otherwise have been used to support student learning, academic enrichment, and after school programming; and

1 WHEREAS, If chronic absenteeism were reduced in half, student outcomes would
2 improve and nearly the entire SFUSD deficit in the upcoming budget year could be resolved
3 without any additional cuts; and

4 WHEREAS, SFUSD and its not-for-profit partner, Spark*SF Public Schools, have
5 recently launched a citywide campaign, named “Be Here,” to encourage students and their
6 families to come to school and learn as well as engage educators and community partners in
7 working together with families to build a culture of attendance and address barriers to getting
8 to school; and

9 WHEREAS, SFUSD and Spark*SF made investments to address chronic absenteeism,
10 including developing a data dashboard, supporting a staff position dedicated to chronic
11 absenteeism, and support for students and their families with the issues that keep students
12 out of school; and

13 WHEREAS, The “Be Here” campaign includes a multi-year philanthropic effort to
14 significantly and permanently reduce chronic absenteeism; and

15 WHEREAS, September is National Attendance Awareness month; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors fully supports efforts to
17 reduce chronic absenteeism and proudly endorses the “Be Here” campaign.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 250904

Date Passed: September 09, 2025

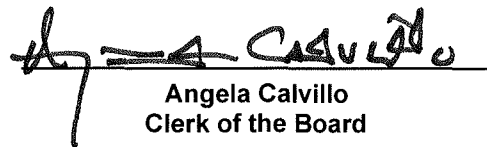
Resolution supporting the efforts to decrease chronic absenteeism and promote belonging in elementary, middle, and high schools; and supporting the San Francisco Unified School District and Spark*SF Public School's "Be Here Campaign."

September 09, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton

File No. 250904

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/9/2025 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

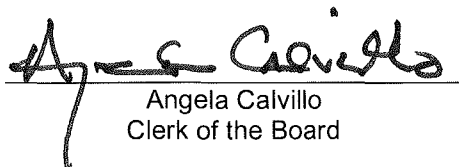
Unsigned

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

9/19/2025

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.


Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

9/19/2025

Date