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NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Countywide Contest Brings Awareness to Improve School Attendance

FAIRFIELD – Solano County Office of Education has joined a nationwide initiative to celebrate Attendance Awareness Month in September and has pledged to raise awareness about the value of regular school attendance, focusing on reducing chronic absenteeism in the new school year.

Good attendance is essential to academic success, unfortunately, students, parents, and the public at large are often unaware how quickly absences, excused or unexcused, can add up. Far too many students are at risk academically because they are chronically absent; described as missing 10 percent of the school year or about 18 days for any reason. Research shows this is the point at which absenteeism begins to affect student performance. “We understand that there may be circumstances when an absence is unavoidable. We want our students and community to know that when educational opportunities are missed students fall behind academically and our goal is to provide them with every possible opportunity for success,” says County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. “The reality is an absence is an absence, excused or not, and we have to work with our community, schools, and families to build a culture that advocates for regular school attendance.”

This matters to all of us, not just to those with school age children. When our schools graduate more students, on time, our communities and economy are stronger. In September, schools, city agencies, community nonprofits, businesses, and others around the nation are committing time and resources to raise public awareness, map local attendance gaps, and work with community partners to improve school attendance starting as soon as children enter school.

In efforts to raise awareness, the Solano County Office of Education is, once again, sponsoring a countywide poster and public service announcement contest. We are seeking entries for a peer-to-peer contest among students as a part of the overall effort to improve school attendance in Solano County; focusing on the importance of regular school attendance.

Please join the Solano County Office of Education as we take action to educate our students on the importance of regular attendance. Together we can make a difference and help all students succeed academically.

For more information, please contact our School Attendance Liaison Terri Myles at TMyles@solanocoe.net or (707) 399-4832.

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