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NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Organization: Solano County Office of Education
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Poster Contest Brings Awareness to Improve School Attendance

FAIRFIELD – “As we embark on the new school year, Solano County Office of Education’s goal is to once again bring awareness to chronic absenteeism during Attendance Awareness Month by mobilizing schools and communities to promote the value of good attendance, convey its link to academic success, and take concrete steps toward reducing chronic absence,” said Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

In efforts to raise awareness, Solano County Office of Education is sponsoring a countywide peer-to-peer poster/vision board contest among students to improve school attendance in Solano County. Students will be given the chance to win prizes if they create a poster with a message that focus on the importance of regular school attendance or create a vision board displaying how good attendance will affect their life goals.

Chronic Absenteeism is a “red flag” that students are headed for academic trouble. Research shows that chronically absent students are less likely to succeed academically and are more likely to be suspended and eventually dropout. Chronic absences in the early grades are the most troubling; poor attendance can start as early as pre-kindergarten. Nationally, one out of every 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent and as many as 7.5 million students miss nearly a month of school every year. That’s 135 million days of lost time in the classroom.

Research proves that students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are far less likely to read proficiently by third grade. For every day of school missed, it takes three days to make up what was taught. By the sixth grade, if a student continues to be chronically absent, it is a leading predictor of whether he or she will drop out of high school. In the ninth grade, chronic absences are a better indicator than test scores of a student’s likelihood to graduate from high school.

Please join Solano County Office of Education in educating our students on the seriousness of chronic absences and spreading the word throughout our community.

Submit poster/vision board entries no later than Tuesday October 1, 2019, to Terri Myles at Golden Hills Education Center- Bldg. 5, 2460 Clay Bank Rd., Fairfield, Ca. 94533.

For more information, please contact Terri Myles @ (707) 399-4832

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