**Lamont Elementary School District**

**Board of Directors**

**Resolution Endorsing September 2016 as Attendance Awareness Month**

**Whereas,** the Lamont Elementary School District Board values and recognizes positive school attendance as a critical element for student success; and

**Whereas,** good school attendance is essential to pupil achievement and graduation, and systemic approaches are needed to reduce chronic absenteeism rates, with a focus starting as early as kindergarten; and

**Whereas,** chronic absenteeism, defined as a student missing ten percent of the school year or about 18 days a year, is one of the strongest indicators of future dropout; and

**Whereas,** nationwide, one out of every ten students in kindergarten and first grade are chronically absent; and

**Whereas,** chronic absenteeism in kindergarten predicts low academic achievement in later grades with research demonstrating that students chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of third grade; and

**Whereas,** 75 percent of students who are chronically absent in sixth grade will drop out of high school; and

**Whereas,** chronic absence is often overlooked because many schools only monitor average daily attendance and truancy rates, both of which can easily mask chronic absence; and

**Whereas,** California enacted the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), which encourages school districts to track and establish goals and specific actions for reducing chronic absence; and

**Whereas,** increasing school attendance requires community-wide involvement and begins with an awareness of the cumulative negative effects of chronic absence on academic and social success;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Lamont Elementary School District hereby declares the month of September 2016 as Attendance Awareness Month and supports activities to increase awareness of the importance of daily attendance, especially in the early grades PreK-3.

# LAMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Signed this 23rd day of August, 2016 by

President Clerk