



MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
RESOLUTION 24/25-30

In Recognition of November as California Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention

WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth are young people between 12 to 24 years of age, inclusive, who have the least access to essential opportunities and supports; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of runaway and homeless youth is staggering, with studies suggesting that, nationally, between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youth up to 24 years of age experience homelessness every year, of which gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth are overrepresented compared to the general youth population; and

WHEREAS, based on national surveys and California's youth population, an estimated 200,000 youth under 18 years of age, and thousands more who are 18 to 24 years of age, inclusive, are homeless for one or more days each year; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2022 Point-in-Time Count showed that the number of unaccompanied homeless youth in California was 9,590, and there were another 1,909 parenting youth and their children experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of unaccompanied homeless youth who are unsheltered in California stands at 70.5 percent, which is the highest in the country. California also has 32 percent of the homeless youth in the country, the largest number of homeless youth of any state; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Diablo Unified School District has a significant and growing population of homeless youth, with 273 students identified as McKinney-Vento youth because they are experiencing homelessness, housing instability or are living in substandard conditions, for the 2024-2024 school year as of October 23, 2024.; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Diablo Unified School District has identified a need for increased attention and support for homeless youth through its Local Control and Accountability Plan Goal 4 and the addition of a program specialist to oversee homeless youth programs district-wide, which has led to improved identification and support for homeless youth; and

WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth flee conflict, abuse, neglect, and, increasingly, poverty in their homes. They have become disconnected from educational systems and the workforce, and do not have the skills and financial resources to live on their own. The factors impacting youth homelessness are complex and differ from those impacting other homeless populations; and

WHEREAS, runaway and homeless youth who live on the street are victims of physical abuse, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and crime in untold numbers. An estimated 300,000 youth are either victims or at risk of becoming victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children each year, of which 60 percent of these victimized children are homeless; and

WHEREAS, many of these youth are on the street because they feel there are no other options open to them; and

WHEREAS, the future well-being of our state depends on the value we place on our youth, and, in particular, on our actions to provide the most vulnerable young people in the state with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to find and maintain stable housing and develop into healthy and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, when targeted resources are invested, we see a significant increase in the number of communities with youth-specific housing and programs that will help prevent youth from becoming chronically homeless. California has increased the number of youth beds from 3,159 in 2015, to 5,994 in 2022; and

WHEREAS, awareness of the tragedy of youth experiencing homelessness and its causes must be heightened to ensure greater support for effective programs aimed at preventing homelessness and helping youth remain off the streets;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mt. Diablo Unified School District recognizes the need for individuals, schools, communities, businesses, local governments, and the state to take action on behalf of runaway and homeless youth in California and proclaims the month of November 2024 as California Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to all schools within the district.

AYES: NOES: ABSENCES: ABSTENTIONS:

Erin McFerrin, Board President

Linda Mayo, Board Vice President

Cherise Khaund, Board Member

Debra Mason Board Member

Keisha Nzewi, Board Member

Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent

Resolution 24/25-30

Adopted at the meeting of the MDUSD Governing Board of Education on 10/23/2024