

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
And
Alameda County Superintendent of Schools

RESOLUTION NO. 1906

**Recognizing the month of November as
Homeless Youth Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, the prevalence of runaway and homelessness among youth is staggering, with studies suggesting that every year, between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youth live on the streets of the United States;

WHEREAS, running away from home is widespread, and youth aged 12 to 17 are at a higher risk of homelessness than adults;

WHEREAS, runaway youth most often are youth who have been expelled from their homes by their families; physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home; discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition plans; separated from their parents by death and divorce; too poor to secure their own basic needs; and ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources;

WHEREAS, with fewer jobs available to teens to help their families financially, more youth are leaving their homes and living on the streets; more than three-quarters of these cases go unreported by parents and/or caretakers, and too often, these youth are distrusting of the help that is offered to them;

WHEREAS, children make up 27%, the fastest growing segment, of the U.S. homeless population; the recession has forced many families out of their homes, and children are being added to the long list of victims, moving from couch to couch and shelter to shelter;

WHEREAS, effective programs supporting runaway youth and assisting youth and their families in remaining at home succeed because of partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses;

WHEREAS, preventing youth from running away from home and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national priority;

WHEREAS, the future well-being of the Nation is dependent on the opportunities provided for youth and families to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for youth to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

WHEREAS, the McKinney Vento Project Concern of the Alameda County Office of Education has joined the National Runaway campaign, “Green Light Project,” to increase awareness of the issues facing runaways and educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in preventing youth from running away;

WHEREAS, the National Network for Youth and its members advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youth, and provide an array of community-based support to address their critical needs;

WHEREAS, the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth to their families and link youth to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home; and

WHEREAS, the National Network for Youth and National Runaway Switchboard are cosponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month in November to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youth in high-risk situations, and the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives, resources, and support for youth, families, and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alameda County Board of Education and the Alameda County Superintendent of Schools recognize the month of November as Homeless Youth Awareness Month;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alameda County Board of Education and the Alameda County Superintendent of Schools acknowledge the importance of youth runaway prevention;


AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alameda County Board of Education and the Alameda County Superintendent of Schools urge support for greater public awareness efforts and effective runaway youth prevention programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of November, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES: 7 **NOES:** 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0 **ABSENT:** 0



Eileen McDonald, President
Alameda County Board of Education



Sheila Jordan, Superintendent
Alameda County Office of Education