

Resolution 2223R-008

By Director O'Halloran

WHEREAS, The Board is committed to providing an educational environment that treats homeless students with dignity which applies to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available; and

WHEREAS, Since 2002, November has been recognized as National Runaway Prevention Month and is presented each year by the National Runaway Safeline, the federally designated national crisis and communication system for youth ages 12 to 21 who have run away, are considering leaving home, or are experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one in every 30 students will experience homelessness in any given year, with Black and Latinx youth experiencing homelessness at higher rates than their non-Hispanic white peers; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 7% of youth in the United States identify as LGBTQ+, while youth who identify as LGBTQ+ make up 40% of those who are homeless; and

WHEREAS, Young adults without a high school diploma or GED are 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness than their peers who completed high school; and

WHEREAS, Runaway youth are often ousted from their home, have experienced abuse and trauma, struggle to meet basic needs, and are more likely to be unable to or ineligible to access medical or mental health resources; and

WHEREAS, Runaway youth are at increased danger of falling into high-risk situations, including sexual exploitation and human trafficking, being coerced into participating in criminal activity, joining a gang, or using illegal drugs, which lead to a higher likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS Preventing youth from running away from home or from foster care and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national responsibility;

WHEREAS, The relationship between educational attainment and homelessness is bidirectional, i.e. supporting young people's housing stability can improve educational outcomes and supporting educational stability can improve future housing stability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Milwaukee Board of School Directors joins districts and youth organizations nationwide in recognizing November as National Runaway Prevention Month; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration explore prevention strategies within our programs to equip school counselors, social workers, and other adults to better help students who are considering running away; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Administration designate a day within the month of November where staff and students are encouraged to wear green (the designated color) for National Runaway Prevention Month.

Introduced September 29, 2022