WHEREAS, November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. Every year, hundreds of thousands of American families become homeless, including more than 1.6 million children; and

WHEREAS, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, homeless children and youth are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence including those sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

WHEREAS, the homeless youth population also includes unaccompanied youth who have left home for one or more nights without permission; youth who have been kicked out of their homes, are abandoned, deserted, or prevented from returning home; and systems youth who have either aged out of foster care or have been released from juvenile justice or other public systems with nowhere to go; and

WHEREAS, Homeless children and youth are nine times more likely than their peers to repeat a grade; and

WHEREAS, Homeless children are three times more likely than their peers to be placed in special education; and

WHEREAS, Homeless children and youth are four times more likely than their peers to drop out of school; and

WHEREAS, The future wellbeing of our schools and county depends on the value we place on our youth and, in particular, on our actions to provide these most vulnerable of our young people with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities they need; and

WHEREAS, The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program supports homeless students and families through educational advocacy and support while promoting awareness in schools and the community; and

WHEREAS, schools within Nevada County reported having 266 McKinney-Vento students in the 2021-2022 year; and

WHEREAS, Assistance provided by the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program includes:
  • Developing and providing technical support to districts and charter schools for the implementation and compliance with federal mandates and provisions set forth in the
McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act, which provide educational protections and rights for students experiencing homelessness; and
• Providing support to schools and LEA Homeless Liaisons in the identification of students experiencing homelessness; and
• Facilitating professional development trainings and outreach for school personnel and community agencies regarding the educational rights and services provided to homeless students; and
• Providing services and support for youth experiencing homelessness and assisting in accessing the opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to develop into healthy and productive adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Nevada County Board of Education that we do hereby recognize the month of November as Homeless Youth Awareness Month and recognize the unique needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness to increase both awareness of the issue and their commitment to helping these young people succeed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on November 9, 2022, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

__________________________________
Heino Nicolai  
President, Board of Education