



INCLUSION
COLLABORATIVE

Agency Policy Pledge for Person-First Terminology

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) recognizes the necessity of a more respectful and humanistic view of students with disabilities. Therefore, it has committed to use respectful language by adopting a person-first terminology policy. This policy states that the SCCOE will place the person first before the label (e.g. “a child with autism,” instead of “an autistic child”) in its written and verbal communications, thus acknowledging that the whole person has many characteristics. The SCCOE has taken this bold step to become an agent of change for our community.

Your agency can also take this bold step by developing its own person-first terminology policy. Your policy might include some of the following examples:

- Include a statement about how your agency will implement the policy in your bylaws or policies/procedures.
- Write an article on person-first terminology in your agency newsletter or bulletin explaining your new policy.
- Provide an explanation of how to use the policy in your agency's communications or correspondence handbook.
- Provide information on the policy to staff members at meetings and trainings.

For more information or if you would like assistance in creating a person-first terminology policy, please contact the Inclusion Collaborative at (408) 453-6756 or www.inclusioncollaborative.org.

My agency pledges to create a person-first terminology policy.

Please fax to 408-453-6596

Print name:	Date:
Signature:	Email:
Organization name:	

Supported by:



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