

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE WEEK

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2455-3**

WHEREAS, January 27-31 is recognized as Great Kindness Challenge Week. The Great Kindness Challenge (GKC) is an annual bullying prevention program that fosters a positive school environment and promotes student engagement; and

WHEREAS, organized by the international nonprofit Kids for Peace, the GKC was established in 2011. Founded in 2006, Kids for Peace aims to inspire and empower young people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to foster peace within themselves, their schools, communities, and the broader world; and

WHEREAS, since 2011, over 110 countries, 41 thousand schools, and 20 million students have participated in the GKC program; and

WHEREAS, more than four million students participate in the Great Kindness Challenge from California, representing 7,456 schools across 61 school districts; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "Kindness Moves," which aims to promote well-being and kindness through movement; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education encourages schools across California to participate in the GKC on the last week of January; and

WHEREAS, the GKC annually produces a toolkit to support schools, educators, and students in participating in resources that promote kindness during the week. There are three editions of the GKC, a school, classroom, and hybrid edition; and

WHEREAS, by participating in the challenge for consecutive years a district or school may become kindness certified, receiving a badge and GKC certificate. Multiple school districts in Santa Clara County have become GKC-certified including Cupertino Union, Gilroy Unified, Los Altos, San Jose Unified, and Union School District; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) provides resources from the school edition of the GKC toolkit to its employees and the greater Santa Clara County community, such as kindness checklists available in multiple languages for different age groups and reflection worksheets; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, students from the SCCOE Special Education Program participated in the GKC week by making kindness cards for each other during class; and

WHEREAS, these efforts aim to give children and young adults the right to love and emotional connections, which reflects the Bill of Rights for Children and Young Adults for Santa Clara County's promise to create meaningful connections with consistent caring adults and peers who love and appreciate the young person for who they are; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize January 27-31, 2025, as Great Kindness Challenge Week.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on January 15, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan, Maimona Afzal Berta, Raeena Lari, Jessica Speiser, Jorge Pacheco

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Trustee Rocha



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Charles Hinman, Ed.D.
Interim County Superintendent of Schools