

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING  
ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs)**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2457-6**

**WHEREAS**, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Kaiser Permanente, include various forms of abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction experienced during childhood that can lead to long-term negative outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, ACEs have been scientifically linked to increased risks of chronic diseases, mental health challenges, substance abuse, lower educational attainment, and other adverse life outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, studies indicate that nearly two-thirds of individuals have experienced at least one ACE, and approximately one in six individuals report experiencing four or more ACEs, highlighting the widespread impact of childhood adversity; and

**WHEREAS**, the effects of ACEs are not evenly distributed and disproportionately affect historically marginalized and under-resourced communities, exacerbating existing inequities in health, education, and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of protective factors, such as supportive relationships, community engagement, access to education, and trauma-informed care, can mitigate the harmful effects of ACEs and promote resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing ACEs aligns with the mission of fostering equitable access to resources and opportunities, ensuring all individuals can thrive regardless of their background; and

**WHEREAS**, promoting awareness by educating stakeholders, including educators, healthcare providers, policymakers, and community members, about the prevalence and impact of ACEs and the importance of trauma-informed approaches is essential; and

**WHEREAS**, implementing trauma-informed practices by supporting the integration of trauma-informed care into schools, healthcare systems, social services, and other community organizations is crucial to address the needs of individuals affected by ACEs; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in prevention and early intervention by advocating for programs and policies that prevent childhood adversity and provide early intervention services to families and children at risk is necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, building resilience by fostering environments that promote protective factors such as positive relationships, safe and supportive communities, and access to mental health resources is vital; and

**WHEREAS**, advancing equity by addressing systemic inequities and ensuring that efforts to mitigate ACEs are inclusive and culturally responsive, prioritizing support for communities disproportionately impacted by childhood adversity, is imperative; and

**WHEREAS**, collaborating across sectors by partnering with public and private entities, including educational institutions, healthcare providers, community organizations, and government agencies, to develop coordinated strategies to reduce ACEs and their impact is a shared responsibility; 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 recognizing the critical importance of understanding, preventing, and addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on February 5, 2025, by the following vote:

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

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Maimona Afzal Berta, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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