

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AUTISM AWARENESS DAY AND MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2459-1

WHEREAS, the month of April is Autism Awareness Month and April 2 is recognized as World Autism Day, bringing awareness to the immense need for equitable and diverse educational opportunities for all youth; and

WHEREAS, this recognition, founded by The Autism Society, began in 1972 and was called, “National Autistic Children’s Week”. On April 2, 2008, the United Nations recognized it as World Autism Day to raise awareness of the need to improve many facets of life to be more inclusive and equitable, specifically for people with autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities; and

WHEREAS, *Autism Parenting Magazine* has noted the contributions and talents of notable historical figures who identify as being on the autism spectrum, including Greta Thunberg, a Swedish environmental activist and American professional surfer, Clay Marzo; and

WHEREAS, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), about one in every 36 children in the United States has been identified as having autism spectrum disorder. Males are more than four times more likely to be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder than females. Autism spectrum disorder affects people from all socioeconomic and ethnic groups, but marginalized groups are more likely to receive a diagnosis later; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Clara County, there are resources for families with children who have autism spectrum disorder including Parents Helping Parents, a resource for supporting and educating families of children with autism spectrum disorder; and the San Andreas Regional Center, which provides service coordination to assist families with seeking out care for their children; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) leads the Inclusion Collaborative to promote equity, inclusion, and high-quality learning environments for individuals with disabilities in communities throughout the State of California and provides educators, parents, and community partners - including the Pediatric Diagnostic Services Center (PDSC) - with training, information, and technical assistance to support the individual learning needs of students from the early years through age 22; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE leads the [California Collaborative for Inclusive Practices \(CCIP\)](#) with a commitment to improving outcomes for students with disabilities by collaboratively building capacity and sharing promising practices and resources to support county offices of education and local educational agencies throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Inclusion Collaborative’s WarmLine supports families, teachers, and anyone who works with children. The Warmline offers guidance and screening for youth ages 0-22, with or without disabilities, coaching, and resource finding in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin. In 2024, there were 3,012 calls made to the WarmLine. The most needed supports the WarmLine provided in 2024 were for behavior and autism; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE and the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) support inclusive learning environments that promote strong physical and mental health outcomes for all students, including through the integration of social-emotional learning; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and the SCCBOE recognize the value and importance of professional development and the need for equitable state and federal funding to schools for the provision of professional development for staff and educational services for students with disabilities; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing April as Autism Awareness Month and April 2 as Autism Awareness Day.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 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



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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