

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No. 2680-4

WHEREAS, environmental education is a chance for students to advocate, learn, and grow while experiencing the world around them. This type of education teaches youth that their actions contribute to a meaningful impact on the earth; and

WHEREAS, damage to the environment is evident as the global annual temperature continued to increase in 2025 and was the third warmest year since global records began in 1850. The ten warmest years were all within the last decade, 2015-2025, according to the [National Centers for Environmental Information's 2025 Global Climate report](#); and

WHEREAS, recognizing environmental education has a role in reducing the effects of climate change on young people, local educational agencies (LEAs) create, support, and engage in climate observances, initiatives, and programs for students. Such observances include National Environmental Education Week, April 15-22, 2026, World Environmental Day on June 5, 2026; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, California signed into law [Assembly Bill 285](#), which requires that all K-12 students receive climate change education with an emphasis on the causes of climate change, adaptation to climate change and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, on a local level, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors endorsed the Bill of Rights for Children and Young Adults for Santa Clara County in February 2010, where every child has a right to easily accessible and clean green spaces; and

WHEREAS, youth-focused organizations such as Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA), a youth-led non-profit that empowers teens and young adults, are taking steps to combat climate change and partner to create impactful education and policy initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) Environmental Literacy [website](#) provides resources for community members to learn about climate action, assist school districts with curriculum, and inform educators about community events related to environmental literacy and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE supports the development of school gardens and school garden curriculum across Santa Clara County through the [Growing Gardens Project](#); now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing the benefits of environmental education and literacy while affirming a shared commitment to inspire and promote environmental education and advocacy of this Earth.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 18, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Raena Lari, Maimona Afzal Berta, Don Rocha, Victoria Chon, Jessica Speiser, Jorge Pacheco


NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Tara Sreekrishnan



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Dr. David M. Toston, Sr.
County Superintendent of Schools