

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S ENGLISH LEARNER (EL) ROADMAP

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION NO. 2260-1

WHEREAS, The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has served as a leader in the adoption and implementation of the English Learner Roadmap policy; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County has the sixth-highest English Learner population amongst 58 counties throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, The SCCOE is a longtime supporter of bilingual/multilingual advocacy and played a role in the passage of House Resolution 690 in 2016, which officially designated the month of April as National Bilingual/Multilingual Advocacy Month; and

WHEREAS, This year, the SCCOE will honor National Bilingual/Multilingual Advocacy Month by celebrating local programs that have shown a commitment to educational equity and access for bilingual/multilingual learners. The event will feature Civil Rights Activist Sylvia Mendez, and showcase programs making a positive impact on bilingual/multilingual learners; and

WHEREAS, the California State Board of Education adopted the English Learner Roadmap in July 2017 calling for school districts to ensure that English Learner (EL) students attain high levels of English proficiency, mastery of grade-level standards and have opportunities to develop proficiency in multiple languages starting in Early Childhood Education (ECE); and

WHEREAS, close to 58,384 (21.8%) of Santa Clara County students, K-12th grade, are currently learning academic English as a second language, and have the opportunity to learn both in English and their native language to significantly increase their chances of high achievement in school, leading to higher education and global careers as multilingual speakers; and

WHEREAS, another 89,748 (33.6%) of Santa Clara County students, K-12th grade, already have strong proficiency in English but also speak another language, and by participating in language programs these students can be better prepared to compete in the global workforce as multilingual speakers; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to providing opportunities for monolingual English-speaking students starting in Early Childhood Education (ECE) to be instructed to achieve proficiency in a second language so that they will be better prepared to compete in the global workforce as multilingual speakers; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to aligning all of its programs and services for EL students with the State Board's EL Roadmap and is committed to providing all parents various language acquisition program options starting in ECE; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education hereby acknowledges and supports the English Learner Roadmap and the development and strengthening of language acquisition program options for SCCOE students, ECE-12th grade, including dual immersion, bilingual and foreign language acquisition programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 1, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: NOES: ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Claudia Rossi, President

Santa Clara County Board of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.

County Superintendent of Schools Santa Clara County Office of Education