

**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MAY AS FOSTER YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2279-1**

WHEREAS, the month of May is set aside as National Foster Care Month to recognize the collaborative relationships across community organizations to support youth in foster care programs; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Clara County there are over 1,206 children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education provides educational case and care coordination to children and youth in foster care to address their vital educational needs and provides assistance and training to school districts and community stakeholders regarding the educational laws that protect the rights of both foster and homeless youth; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to improving the academic and social-emotional outcomes of foster youth; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education provides Foster Vision, a sustainable and free service to all school districts in Santa Clara County, to facilitate tracking foster youth educational status, placement changes, and improvement of services, through collaboration with public agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education along with the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the Santa Clara County Office of Education formed the Joint Foster Youth Task Force in March 2017 that examined all aspects of foster care; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 high school cohort graduation rate for youth in foster care is 51-percent, much lower than their non-foster counterparts at 85-percent; and vast disparities have been identified in employment, and income opportunities for youth who have been part of the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, the Santa County Office of Education is committed to improving student equity as well as being a premiere service organization that is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success as well as working in partnership with local agencies to ensure that all students are receiving the resources and support necessary to be successful; and

WHEREAS, the Santa County Office of Education operates an Opportunity Youth Academy at the Hub in partnership with the County of Santa Clara to remove barriers to accessing educational programs and services for foster youth; and

WHEREAS, the Santa County Office of Education partners with Child Advocates of Silicon Valley (CASA), Pivotal, the Bill Wilson Center and others to collaborate on behalf of foster youth; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize May as National Foster Care Month and supports foster youth in education in Santa Clara County while encouraging community-wide cross-collaboration to help students meet the parity goals outlined in the Santa Clara County Joint Foster Youth Task Force Final Recommendations;

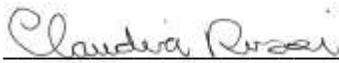
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 7, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: President Rossi, Vice President King and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah, and Ortiz

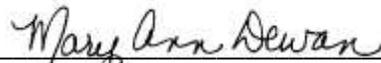
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools