

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2461-2**

WHEREAS, May is National Foster Care Month, a campaign established to recognize the importance of collaborative relationships among community organizations working to support youth in foster care programs; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), there were approximately 368,530 children in foster care in the United States during fiscal year 2022¹; and

WHEREAS, in California, the state with the largest foster youth population, there were 45,924 children in foster care as of fiscal year 2022.² Each year, approximately 20,000 youth age out of the foster care system nationwide without a permanent family; and

WHEREAS, in the 2023-2024 academic year, 260 children and youth from Santa Clara County were reported to be in foster care by the California Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is committed to improving the academic and social-emotional outcomes of foster youth. The SCCOE provides services to children and youth in foster care through Foster & Homeless Youth Services (FHY) by providing assistance and training to local education agencies (LEAs); and

WHEREAS, FHY connects school districts and community partners and keeps them abreast of educational law that protects youth who are in foster care or experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, FHY manages a Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program funded by the California Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, FHY continues to partner with Pivotal, a San José-based nonprofit, providing foster youth education and career support, educational coaching, and post-secondary planning for youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS, the Pivotal and SCCOE partnership continues to evolve to meet the needs of youth returning to school and adjusting to learning loss that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE provides Foster Vision, a sustainable and free service to all school districts in Santa Clara County, to facilitate communication of foster youth educational status, placement changes, and improvement of services, through a collection of data from districts and public agencies; and

¹ <https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcars-report-30.pdf>

² <https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/byState/california>

WHEREAS, the SCCOE co-leads the education manager program with the County of Santa Clara Social Services Agency; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE hosts a community of practice for school district foster youth liaisons. In August 2021, a county-wide Steering Committee was established, in partnership with community-based organizations and agencies, to improve educational outcomes for youth who are in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or are justice-engaged; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize May as National Foster Care Month and support foster youth in education in Santa Clara County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 16, 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