

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2461-1**

WHEREAS, May is recognized as National Mental Health Awareness Month, an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and wellness, expand knowledge of available services and programs for youth in Santa Clara County, and reduce the stigma often associated with accessing mental health care; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) played a role in establishing May 10-14, 2021, as Student Mental Health Awareness Week in [Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 68](#); and

Whereas, on April 30, 2024, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring May 1-7, 2024, as “Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week”; and

WHEREAS, a youth mental health crisis continues to impact children and youth. According to the 2024 California Children’s Report Card, mental health issues are the number one reason California children are hospitalized; and

WHEREAS, the three-digit dialing code, 988, that routes callers to the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline reached its two-year anniversary in July 2024, and has seen an increase in overall contacts since it rebranded in July 2022, from the previous 10-digit Lifeline phone number 1-800-273-TALK; and

WHEREAS, from July 2022 to May 2023, 12 crisis centers across California responded to more than 280,000 contacts via calls, chats, and texts, according to research from the Suicide Prevention Center at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services; and

WHEREAS, the youth mental health crisis manifests every day in schools, contributing to higher drop-out rates, student disengagement, chronic absenteeism, increased disciplinary actions, and the tragic loss of life; and

WHEREAS, students of color make up more than 80 percent of the population in Santa Clara County schools. Times of crisis and unrest in society can influence the mental health and emotional well-being of students of color, increasing anxiety and stress, and negatively impacting their academic and career success; and

WHEREAS, addressing the complex social, emotional, and mental health and wellness needs of students is fundamental to the future of California; this includes reducing the stigma around accessing mental health services so students may feel empowered to speak up when they need help; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by the American Psychological Association (APA), children are 21 times more likely to receive the mental health services they need when services are provided on a school campus. Comprehensive and coordinated school-based mental health services for students are an essential part of a comprehensive education plan; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE co-sponsored SB 508 that was incorporated into the budget bill of 2021, which required health plans to collaborate with schools to provide mental health services to students on school campuses and made services more accessible to students by expanding the network of school-based mental health practitioners and use of telehealth; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE co-sponsored SB 1184, which improves the care coordination for students accessing behavioral health services. School-linked services coordinators can refer students and families to mental healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE co-sponsored AB 483, which was signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom on November 16, 2023. AB 483 expands access to school-based health and mental health services by streamlining processes to encourage local educational agencies (LEAs) to participate in federal reimbursement for health and mental health services provided to students; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the mental health needs of youth, the SCCOE established wellness centers and programs in schools throughout Santa Clara County in partnership with the County of Santa Clara, community partners, philanthropy, and local school districts; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is committed to further developing partnerships between Medi-Cal Managed Care, commercial health plans, and schools to ensure that all students, including those with private health care, have ready access to services at school; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE believes student wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life, and firmly advocates for school-based services that increase access for all students to quality mental health care, peer supports, and wellness-oriented programs; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE encourages activities related to raising awareness during National Mental Health Awareness Month, including parent and teacher conversations with students, removing stigma around receiving services, sharing resources, and encouraging peer-to-peer discussions; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the Interim County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize May as National Mental Health Awareness Month.

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