

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION No: 2317-1

WHEREAS, May is 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 associated with mental health; and

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

WHEREAS, a youth mental health crisis continues to impact children and youth amid lingering effect of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in California there was a 227% increase in calls to the California Youth Crisis Hotline during the pandemic, diagnosis of major depressive disorders increased by 84% and intentional self-harm among 13 to 18-year-olds increased by 91% and overdosed increased by 95%, according to research from 2021; 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% of the population in Santa Clara County schools. Times of crisis and unrest in society can drastically influence the mental health and emotional wellbeing of students of color, increasing anxiety and stress and negatively impacting their academic and career success; and

WHEREAS, addressing the complex social and emotional and mental health and wellness needs of students is fundamental to the future of California; this includes reducing the stigma surrounding mental health to empower students 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. The need for comprehensive and coordinated mental health services for students in school is a essential part of a comprehensive education plan; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education 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 Santa Clara County Office of Education 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 health and care; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is co-sponsoring AB 483 and SB 551. Through SB 551, county government would be required to collaborate with LEAs and allocate at least 20% of Prevention and Early Intervention funds toward school-based behavioral health services. AB 483 would expand access to school-based health and mental health services by encouraging more schools to participate in the LEA Billing Option Program (LEA BOP) and bill for more eligible services, thereby increasing funding available to support student services. The Department of Health Care Services would be required to reform the audits process from the LEA BOP to make it more practical for schools to participate; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) ensure state and local governments have increased access to mental health for California students insured through Medi-Cal; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the mental health needs of youth, the Santa Clara County Office of Education 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 Santa Clara County Office of Education 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 Santa Clara County Office of Education continues its commitment to strengthening partnerships with community based organizations that support youth mental health awareness such as the Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) program and suicide prevention services; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education 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 increases access for all students, to quality mental health care, peer supports and wellness oriented programs; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education encourages activities related to raising awareness during mental health awareness month, including parent and teacher conversations with students, removing stigma around receiving services, sharing resources and encouraging peer-to-peer discussions; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education calls for support for legislation and state and federal funding that would increase access to school-based student mental health services; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools acknowledge May as National Mental Health Awareness Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 19, 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: President Chon, Vice President Sreekrishnan, and Trustees Berta, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Rocha

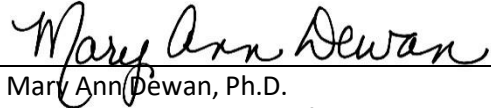
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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