

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH
AND STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No: 2298-3**

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

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education cosponsored efforts that led to the establishment of May 10-14, 2021 as Student Mental Health Awareness Week in [Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 68](#); 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 students; 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, the Santa Clara County Office of Education recently published a research brief, [The Efficacy of Implementing a School-Based Approach to Student Wellness](#), outlining statistics on the youth mental health crisis and the importance of expanding school-based wellness centers; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by the American Psychological Association (APA), children are 21 times more likely to get 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 critical part of an overall education plan; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education co-sponsored SB 508 that was incorporated into the budget bill of 2021 and 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 Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) help to ensure state and local governments have increased access to mental health for California students insured through Medi-Cal; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education received a competitive MHSSA grant to establish and expand wellness centers on school campuses through work with schools and student advisory groups to ensure diverse backgrounds, perspectives and identities were heard in the creation of the wellness centers on each school site; 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, 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 in a trusted setting; 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 and Student Mental Health Awareness Week 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 and Santa Clara County Board of Education support legislation 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 and Student Mental Health Awareness Week.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 20, 2022, by the following vote:

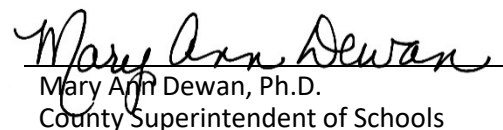
AYES: President Ortiz, Vice President Chon and Trustees Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah, Rossi, and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none


Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education


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