

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

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**RESOLUTION No. 2242-2**

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

**WHEREAS**, in Santa Clara County there are over 1,200 children and youth in Foster Care; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education provides direct services 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. Developing a plan to meet this goal is one of the ten strategic actions for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE 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 a collection of data from districts and public agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE will co-host a Foster Youth Awareness Month Celebration entitled “Living @ Promise” an annual event designed to provide support for youth in foster programs by connecting them with opportunities for college and career readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE participates and co-leads the Foster Youth Aligned Action Network, a coalition of stakeholders from government agencies, schools, nonprofits, and the community committed to improving the outcomes for foster youth in Santa Clara County; 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**, Trustee Joseph Di Salvo was appointed to serve on the committee examining employment and education outcomes for foster youth. The Foster Youth Aligned Action Network identifies that current and former foster youth earn an average of \$8,300 a year at the age of 24, making it impossible to live sustainably; and

**WHEREAS**, the high school cohort graduation rate for youth in Foster Care is 46-percent, much lower than their non-foster counterparts at 85-percent; and vast disparities have been identified in employment, and income opportunities. The Foster Youth Aligned Action Network outlined parity goals beginning with the high school class of 2021; on-time graduation, drop-out rates, and earning potential should align with the general youth population;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools does hereby adopt this resolution to recognize May as Foster Youth Awareness 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 May 1, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: President Kamei, Vice President Song, trustees Di Salvo, King, Mah and Rossi

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Trustee Ortiz



---

Rosemary Kamei, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



---

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