



**RESOLUTION
RECOGNITION OF STUDENT'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2281-1**

WHEREAS, May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, which gives us the opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and wellness and expand understanding of the mental or behavioral health issues facing the community and reduce the stigma many experience; and

WHEREAS, due to the prevalence of social media, rising rates of poverty, an uptick in disasters such as wildfires and floods, civil unrest, and the pandemic of the past year, there has been a sharp increase in trauma and the need for mental health services among 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 well-being 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 recent study by the American Psychological Association (APA), children are 21 times more likely to get mental health services they need, if 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 State of California recently passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution 68 acknowledging a week to be set aside each year for the awareness of our students' mental health and well-being; and, to ensure health plans are meeting the requirement to provide mental health services to students; and

WHEREAS, the week of May 10 to May 14 has been designated as Mental Health Awareness Week for calendar year 2021; 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 the 38% of California students insured through Medi-Cal; and

WHEREAS, last year, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) received a competitive MHSSA grant, which is being used to establish and expand wellness centers on school campuses, and to establish the SCCOE mental health youth advisory group; 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 student mental health week, including parent, teacher conversations with students, removing stigma around receiving services, sharing resources and encouraging peer-to-peer discussions; and

WHEREAS, to further promote student mental health and well-being, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has partnered with state and local government agencies including: Santa Clara County Behavioral Services Department, Santa Clara County Child Death Review Team and the Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Department, to bring awareness and response to mental health with targeted funding and resources; and

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

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is dedicated to promoting mental health awareness with programs such as the SCCOE Youth Advisory group and school-linked-services program that further its goal of maintaining equity, diversity, inclusion and partnership throughout districts and schools, county-wide; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools acknowledges and supports the week of May 10, 2021 to May 14, 2021 as California Student Mental Health Week.

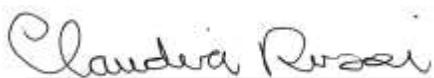
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 5, 2021, by the following vote:

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

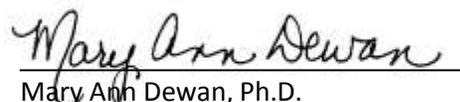
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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