

RESOLUTION URGING PROTECTION OF YOUTH FROM GUN VIOLENCE

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2441-4**

WHEREAS, the month of June is nationally recognized as Gun Violence Awareness Month, and the first Friday is recognized as National Gun Violence Day; and

WHEREAS, [Moms Demand Action](#) and [Everytown for Gun Safety](#), two groups that advocate for gun safety, are hosting a “Wear Orange Weekend” from June 7th to June 9th, to raise awareness on the issue of gun violence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), gun violence is now the number one cause of death for children and teenagers, surpassing car accidents, and is a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, gun violence and threats of gun violence in schools undermine the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments; and

WHEREAS, since the 1999 Columbine school shooting, more than 330,000 students have experienced gun violence at their schools, according to the [Sandy Hook Promise](#). There have been 114 school shootings in the United States in the 2024 school, according to the [K-12 School Shooting Database](#); and

WHEREAS, in school shooting cases where the source of the involved gun could be determined, 86 percent were found in the homes of friends, relatives, or parents, according to [The Washington Post](#); and

WHEREAS, there is a disproportionate impact of school shootings on children of color. For example, 64 percent of incidents of gunfire at K-12 schools occurred at majority-minority schools. Additionally, African American students make up 15 percent of the school population in the United States but are 25 percent of the victims of gunfire at schools, according to Everytown for Gun Safety; and

WHEREAS, according to the K-12 School Shooting Database, there have been seven incidents within California in 2024; and

WHEREAS, according to [Nationwide Children’s Hospital](#), almost 1,300 youth younger than 18 years old die from shootings every year. They found that one in three families with a youth in the household has at least one gun in the home, which means approximately 22 million youth live in homes with guns. Youth aged 11-14 years old account for almost 40 percent of all unintentional shooting deaths; and

WHEREAS, the [Be Smart for Kids](#) non-profit sponsors the Be S.M.A.R.T. Campaign, launched in 2015 by Everytown for Gun Safety, an initiative to bring awareness to safe gun storage. The S.M.A.R.T. acronym stands for Securing all firearms, Model appropriate and safe behavior around firearms, Asking questions about unsecured firearms in homes other than your own, Recognizing the relationship between firearms and suicide, Telling others to be S-M-A-R-T with gun ownership; and

WHEREAS, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) identifies gun violence as a public health epidemic that is preventable using clinical and public health approaches that combine sensible policy, improved

surveillance, research to identify best practices, and evidence-informed cross-sectoral primary prevention and intervention efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the Santa Clara County Public Health Department conducted a study on the cost of gun violence in the county. This study found firearm violence cost 1.2 billion dollars during 2016-2020. 50 percent of the total costs were related to firearm assault/homicide, 38 percent related to self-inflicted injuries and suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education sponsored Senate Bill 906, which Governor Newsom approved in July 2022. The bill went into effect January 1, 2023 and requires “school officials” of any school district, county office of education, or charter school to immediately report homicidal threats or perceived homicidal threats, they have observed or been alerted to law enforcement. This obligation applies only to local educational agencies that serve pupils in any grades from 6-12 as part of a middle school or high school; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving notification of a threat by a school official, law enforcement must conduct an investigation and threat assessment. The investigation and threat assessment must include a review of the Department of Justice’s firearm registry and a search conducted at the school site, but “only if the search is justified by a reasonable suspicion that it would produce evidence related to the threat or perceived threat”; and

WHEREAS, local educational agencies (LEAs) support law enforcement with investigating the threat and conducting a threat assessment; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of this school year, all LEAs (regardless of grade level served) must include information about the safe storage of firearms in the annual notifications that LEAs are obligated to send to parents as noted in Assembly Bill 452 which Governor Newsom signed in August 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) and County Superintendent of Schools urge collaboration amongst communities, schools, health experts, policymakers, and families to prevent firearm injuries and deaths; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution in support of proactive measures to ensure safe schools and communities and to prevent gun violence.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 15, 2024, by the following vote:

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

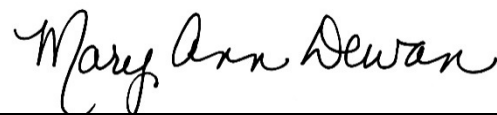
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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