



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE EDUCATION FOR  
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION No: 2319-4**

**WHEREAS**, On November 16, 2022, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) approved a "Resolution Recognizing National Special Education Day" affirming the Board and SCCOE's commitment to students receiving equitable special education services as well as protection of their dignity and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2023, the SCCBOE continued its commitment to equity and inclusion by approving a "Resolution Recognizing Autism Awareness Day and Month" as April was Autism Awareness Month and April 2, 2023 was recognized as World Autism Day - both bring awareness to the immense need for equitable and diverse educational opportunities for all youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and California state law maintain that accountability and responsibility for providing education and related services for students with disabilities rests with the school district of residence, including a duty to provide a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District Supreme Court decision clearly outlined that students receiving special education services meet a standard of "meaningful educational benefit". Chief Justice Roberts stated, "a student offered an educational program providing 'merely more than de minimis' progress from year to year can hardly be said to have been offered an education at all;" and

**WHEREAS**, fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) would provide school districts with the resources needed to ensure all children and youth with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), unlocking the full potential and promise of the law. A full funding request was submitted in 2021 to the Federal Legislature. The bill proposed by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA) would put the IDEA grants to state programs on a 10-year glidepath to full funding. Currently, the federal share of funding in California is 9 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 692 (Cortese), enacted in the California Legislature and codified in the education code, states that "the Legislature finds and declares... All pupils are general education pupils first, including pupils with disabilities"; and

**WHEREAS**, surveys and reports have documented that the pandemic negatively impacted the mental health and well-being of children and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2007 and 2014, the suicide rate for children between the ages of 10 to 14 increased drastically, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing mental health issues that our students continue to experience; the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that death by suicide is the second leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 10-14, 15 to 24 and 25-34; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and Santa Clara County Board of Education recognize the important value of offering ongoing professional development and training for all educators; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and the Santa Clara County Board of Education continue to support safe, inclusive learning environments that promote academic, physical, social-emotional, and mental health and wellness outcomes for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education leads the Inclusion Collaborative to promote equity, inclusion, and high-quality learning environments and provide educators and educational partners with a forum for engagement, input, consultation, training, and professional development to ensure excellence in education for students with individual learning differences; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inclusion Collaborative's Warmline supports families, teachers, and anyone who works with children. The Warmline offers guidance and screening for youth ages 0-22, with or without disabilities, coaching and resource finding in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. On average, the Warmline receives over 250 calls a month, with over 3,000 calls in 2022 and more than 450 referrals from outside agencies; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and Santa Clara County Board of Education recognize that student success is only possible when the "whole child" is served through promoting inclusion, enhancing the awareness and capacity of schools, school personnel, community and educational partners and advancing equity for students of all abilities in schools, classrooms, community, and life; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools and Santa Clara County Board of Education reaffirm a commitment to advancing equity for students of all abilities in schools, classrooms, community, and centering equity, inclusion, welcoming and belonging in policy whenever appropriate; affirm that the Policy Development Subcommittee prioritizes student safety, equity, and inclusion through policy review and development; and urge State and Federal leaders to increase funding for the provision of special education services and to increase capacity for all schools to promote equity and inclusion for students of all abilities.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 17, 2023, by the following vote:

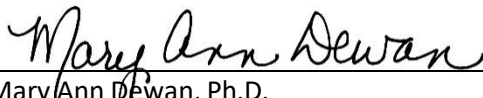
AYES: President Chon, Vice President Sreekrishnan, and Trustees Berta, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Rocha

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none

  
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Victoria Chon, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education

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