

RESOLUTION

**RECOGNIZING SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION SPONSORED LEGISLATION
AND STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2282-2**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is an institute of learning that is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success while lifting up equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership; and,

WHEREAS, the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee (JLAC) has affirmed areas of priority to include early learning and care, digital equity, special education, mental health, data governance and transparency, homeless students and foster youth; and,

WHEREAS, state and federal government officials are considering bills and budget proposals that are aligned to or address these priorities; and,

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has sponsored three (Senate Bill 508, Assembly Bill 568, and Senate Bill 692), and co-sponsored two (Assembly Bill 1361 and Assembly Bill 1294) legislative bills that promote quality, equitable learning and care, youth mental health and well-being, inclusion, and improved outcomes for California students; and,

WHEREAS, the Student Mental Health legislative bill (SB 508) requires health plans to collaborate with schools to provide mental health services to students and make services more accessible by expanding the network of school-based mental health practitioners and use of telehealth; and,

WHEREAS, there is a positive correlation to fewer suspensions, expulsions, and absences when students have access to more mental health resources. Senate Bill 508 would ensure that all students, regardless of health insurance provider or disability status, have easily accessible mental health resources integrated into a school campus and culture; and,

WHEREAS, the Early Learning and Care Dashboard legislative bill (AB 568) seeks to bring together existing and new data on enrollment in, exclusion from, and location of Early Learning and Care (ELC) programs, allowing state and local California policy makers to identify and address the practical and structural barriers that prevent Black and Hispanic children and families from receiving equitable access to high-quality ELC services; and,

WHEREAS, the Dashboard will also help identify existing gaps and inequities in the availability of, and access to, early learning and care programs thus bringing equality to early learning which will provide California youth with the necessary tools to close both the achievement and graduation gaps that currently exist within the educational system; and,

WHEREAS, the Special Education Inclusion Act (SB 692) would support districts to expand options for students with disabilities to learn in the most inclusive environment that is appropriate by adding an existing federal indicator (least restrictive environment) to the state accountability dashboard as a local indicator. It would incentivize districts to provide general education teachers with training and professional development on teaching strategies - universal design for learning - related to the most common mild/moderate disabilities such as ADHD, dyslexia, dyscalculia, and autism; and,

WHEREAS, inclusive programs have been shown to increase academic and graduation outcomes for both special education and non-special education students. Senate Bill 692 addresses the state's low inclusion rates in Kindergarten through 12th grade and furthers movement towards a single system in which *all students are general education students first*; and,

WHEREAS, the co-sponsored Early Learning and Care: Suspension and Expulsion (AB 1361) legislative bill would prohibit suspension and expulsion in state preschool and childcare programs, absent exceptional circumstances, and requires reporting when exclusion occurs. The bill also strengthens early childhood mental health consultation as a means of providing adequate supports to teachers and families to promote positive mental health, buffer the effects of toxic stress and trauma, and create positive learning environments; and,

WHEREAS, national data indicates that children are expelled, suspended, and counseled out of early learning and childcare programs at much higher rates than in K-12 education. African American/Black and Hispanic/Latino children and students of color, especially boys, are disproportionately impacted by this practice. This begins in Pre-K and persists throughout their educational journey. When children are excluded from early learning classrooms, they miss out on the opportunity to develop key social, emotional and academic skills; and,

WHEREAS, removal of Childcare Pilot Sunset Date (AB 1294) legislative bill would make permanent the pilot program enacting a child care subsidy project in Alameda County, which was originally authorized into law by AB 833 (Bonta, 2015), and the pilot enacted in Santa Clara County by AB 2368 (Gordon, 2016); and,

WHEREAS, removal of the pilot sunset would help the childcare field's COVID-19 response and recovery through these specific features which require no additional budget allocations; and,

WHEREAS, expanded funding for childcare, preschool and early learning programs have been proposed by state and federal government leaders; and

WHEREAS, bills and budget allocations designed to address digital equity by expanding broadband infrastructure, affordability, and access to high-speed reliable broadband are being considered by state and federal government; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize and support the legislative bills that the SCCOE has sponsored/co-sponsored which promote the mental health and well-being, inclusion, establishment of safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county, and improve outcomes for California students, and urge action of state and federal government leaders to invest in early care and TK-12 education and school-based mental health and wellness, and pass legislation that addresses inequities in our systems and promotes high quality, equitable, and inclusive birth to 12 care and education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools call upon the California State Legislature to expand high-speed, reliable and affordable broadband access for all residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools urge state and federal entities to confront systemic inequities and support the well-being of children by investing in childcare and education, providing direct support to children and families, and approve state and federal policies that benefit working families.

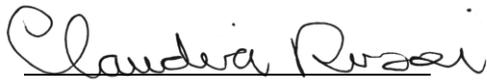
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 19, 2021, by the following vote:

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

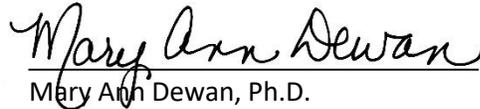
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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