

RESOLUTION  
In Support of Digital Access and Inclusion  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2263-4

WHEREAS, closing the increasing gap to access and inclusion to the internet is vital to the economic prosperity and quality of life for residents in Santa Clara County and throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools find and declare that broadband internet access, both wired and wireless technologies, are essential to 21st-century infrastructure in a digital world and global economy; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is home to the Silicon Valley and is at the center of technology innovation, yet there are persisting broadband connectivity gaps in the county; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30% of students in Santa Clara County have limited or no access to broadband internet at their residence and the majority of the students live in low-income households; and

WHEREAS, a key driver of the digital divide is affordability;

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools are committed to helping students obtain a high-quality education while incorporating digital literacy; and

WHEREAS, broadband internet and computing devices at both school and at home are critical teaching and learning tools for academic achievement, especially as schools are implementing distance learning in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has established a digital learning resource portal to assist in the navigation of COVID-19 digital resources and hosted a webinar with the Silicon Valley Education Foundation and the San Jose Digital Inclusion Partnership of the California Emerging Technology Fund to assist with accessible connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools support digital inclusion as a means to bridging the achievement and homework gaps created by economic disparity and the digital divide; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's Opportunity Youth Academy offers a blended learning opportunity for students ages 16-24 earning a high school diploma and who have an end goal of earning college and/or career credits; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is a premier service organization that is a champion of public education while serving as an exemplary regional resource for students, parents, school districts, community agencies and businesses, is committed to the equity of all students; and,

WHEREAS, local governments have the opportunity to impact deployment and adoption of broadband internet through their positions as policy leaders, planning bodies, land use approval agencies, purchasers-consumers of communications equipment and information technology; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools urge local governments to invest in an infrastructure that provides all residents connection to the internet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools urge local governments to support digital access and inclusion by enabling free or low cost, high-speed, 1 gigabit or faster broadband service, and increase access to hardware, including tablets and laptops, for low-income communities.

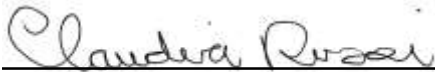
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 20, 2020, by the following vote:

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

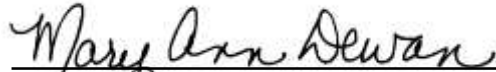
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Claudia Rossi, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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