

**RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF ETHNIC STUDIES**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2265-1**

WHEREAS, California has one of the largest and most diverse student populations in the nation, where 77% of the student population represents its ethnic diversity and the state has more than 200 spoken languages; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County has a rich and diverse cultural history and houses one of the most diverse metropolitan areas in the country with 80% of its student population representing a race other than white; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies courses provide an interdisciplinary study of differences. It is intended to deepen our students' sense of our shared history, the significant contributions of historically underserved races, and helps our students understand and appreciate the rich histories and cultural contributions of various communities that challenge racial oppression; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies and Ethnic Studies Programs allow for marginalized voices to reclaim their histories, challenge dominant narratives, and allow students to see themselves in the curriculum thereby contributing to closing achievement and opportunity gaps and increasing both graduation and college-going rates; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education supports learning aligned with ethnic studies and civic engagement through initiatives such as The Power of Democracy. Ethnic Studies and civic engagement share the same purposes of developing students' critical world view and understanding of their place in the world. Students learn how to use their knowledge of academics and systems to take informed action in order to improve their communities on a local and global scale; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education supports the development of students' critical worldview in order to take informed action through teacher training and curriculum development around action civics projects. These projects are integrated throughout the content standards and are aligned with the key shifts in California's recently revised History-Social Science Framework; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education fosters a community of civically engaged students and educators through the Youth Voice Live event, where authentic youth voice is at the center of the collaborative effort to further engage young people in socially complex issues that are of importance to them; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County Office of Education acknowledges the importance of social justice and racial equity within the community and in every student's education; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to providing excellent educational opportunities to all of our students, without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, income, sexual orientation, or disability, and is guided by the core values of equity, inclusiveness, and universally high expectations; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is an institute of learning that is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public-school success. And, recognizes the value of culturally relevant training and professional learning focused on Ethnic Studies and relevant pedagogy for school staff; and

WHEREAS, the Santa County Office of Education is committed to honoring and celebrating the diversity of others as well as ensuring that we learn from the heritage and culture of others; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent are joined in their support for Ethnic Studies curricula throughout the State of California.

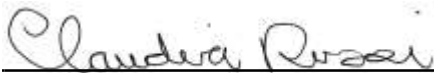
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on June 17, 2020, by the following vote:

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

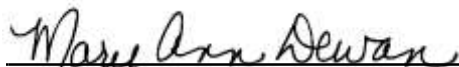
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Claudia Rossi, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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