

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE THREAT OF AIR POLLUTION

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2688-1**

WHEREAS, a study from the National Institutes of Health ([NIH](#)) finds that air pollution is a major public health threat linked to increased rates of respiratory diseases, cardiovascular disease, cancer, neurological disorders, adverse birth outcomes, and premature mortality disproportionately impacting younger children; and

WHEREAS, accelerating climate change is contributing to more frequent and severe wildfires, smog, and extreme heat that significantly degrade air quality and increase health risks for students and school staff; and

WHEREAS, air quality education plays a critical role in promoting environmental literacy, increasing awareness of pollution-related health risks, and equipping communities with the knowledge necessary to protect public health and advocate for cleaner air; and

WHEREAS, improving awareness of air quality supports the Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) commitment to fostering safe, healthy, and equitable learning environments that promote student well-being and academic success; and

WHEREAS, a study from the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) finds that particulate matter (PM) exposure can negatively impact cognitive functioning, affecting students' attention, decision-making skills, and fatigue, and increases in PM concentration are associated with a 5.7 percent increase in absences, 28 percent rise in violent office discipline referrals, and a 13.1 percent increase in teacher absenteeism; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE serves more than 250,000 students across Santa Clara County, many of whom live, learn, and play in communities that experience disproportionately high levels of air pollution and environmental health disparities; and

WHEREAS, during poor air quality days, such as wildfire seasons, the SCCOE issues county-wide guidance in coordination with the Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management and Public Health Department, where schools are encouraged to follow safety recommendations; and

WHEREAS, youth-focused organizations such as ConServe, a youth-led nonprofit dedicated to advancing environmental justice and climate resiliency in schools, have partnered with school districts across Santa Clara County to expand air quality monitoring networks and combat air pollution; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing the importance of clean air and encourage collaboration among schools and community organizations to advance air quality awareness, monitoring, and mitigation efforts.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on July 15, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Raeena Lari, Maimona Afzal Berta, Don Rocha, Victoria Chon, Jessica Speiser, Tara Sreekrishnan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Jorge Pacheco

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Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David M. Toston, Sr.', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. David M. Toston, Sr.
County Superintendent of Schools