

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT TO ALLEVIATING PAIN THROUGH PUBLIC EDUCATION
AND ADVANCING OPPORTUNITY WITHOUT EXCEPTION**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2690-3**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education recognizes that public education serves as one of society's most powerful instruments for reducing barriers, expanding opportunity, and improving the quality of life for children, youth, and families; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Silicon Valley Pain Index identifies significant challenges affecting children and youth throughout Santa Clara County, including shortages in childcare and preschool access, student homelessness, chronic absenteeism, achievement disparities, mental health challenges, child welfare concerns, and educational inequities that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the report documents unmet childcare demand exceeding 25,000 spaces, more than 13,000 preschool space shortages, over 2,200 students experiencing homelessness in San Jose, more than 12,600 child maltreatment allegations, and significant disparities in educational outcomes for students with disabilities, foster youth, Latino students, and other underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that student success is influenced not only by academic instruction but also by early childhood development, health, housing stability, food security, mental wellness, family engagement, community safety, and access to supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes that access to safe outdoor spaces, green space, environmental education, and opportunities for environmental stewardship supports youth wellness, community connection, civic responsibility, and a deeper sense of belonging within the places where children and families live, learn, and gather; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that the responsibility of public education extends beyond responding to challenges and includes actively creating the conditions that allow every learner to thrive from birth through career; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education Strategic Framework is grounded in the belief that every child deserves access to opportunity, support, belonging, and pathways to future success regardless of background, zip code, circumstance, or ability; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools:

1. Affirms its commitment to alleviating pain through public education by identifying and addressing barriers that limit student well-being, educational attainment, and lifelong opportunity.
2. Reaffirms its commitment to Opportunity Without Exception and the creation of educational systems that ensure every student, family, and community has access to the support necessary for success.

3. Recognizes the interconnected nature of student outcomes including early learning, literacy, attendance, mental health, housing stability, special education, foster youth services, career readiness, and community well-being.
4. Supports countywide collaboration among school districts, municipalities, institutions of higher education, employers, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, philanthropic partners, and families to address the underlying causes of student and community pain.
5. Encourages the use of data and continuous improvement practices to identify disparities, measure progress, and prioritize resources where need is greatest.
6. Commits to elevating student voice, family voice, and community voice in the design and implementation of programs, services, and policies.
7. Supports investments in prevention-focused strategies including early childhood education, literacy development, wellness supports, attendance interventions, college and career pathways, and family-centered services.
8. Supports opportunities for environmental stewardship and access to green space as part of a broader commitment to youth wellness, community well-being, and educational experiences that connect students to their neighborhoods, natural environments, and shared civic responsibility.
9. Directs the County Superintendent of Schools to incorporate this commitment into strategic planning, partnership development, program implementation, and advocacy efforts that advance educational equity and student well-being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools declares that alleviating pain through public education is both a moral imperative and a strategic responsibility, and that the Board will continue to champion policies, partnerships, and practices that expand opportunity, strengthen communities, and improve outcomes for all learners.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools reaffirms its belief that:

“Public education has the power to transform lives, strengthen communities, and reduce the conditions that create hardship. Through collective action, courageous leadership, and unwavering commitment, we will work to ensure Opportunity Without Exception for every student, every family, and every community we serve.”

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 2, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Raeena Lari, Maimona Afzal Berta, Jessica Speiser, Jorge Pacheco

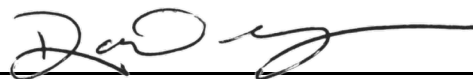
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Don Rocha, Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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