

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
ESTABLISHING A HEALTHY AND SAFE START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2447-4**

WHEREAS, the beginning of a new school year presents an opportunity to prioritize the health and safety of all students and staff; and

WHEREAS, establishing comprehensive protocols and sharing health tips is essential in ensuring that students return to school in a safe and healthy manner; and

WHEREAS, promoting student health supports a smooth and successful transition into the school year; and

WHEREAS, there are direct ties between eye health, hearing screenings, and regular dental checkups and school performance; and

WHEREAS, school nurses, crossing guards, child nutrition staff, bus drivers, teachers, and other staff play an important role in promoting student health both during the school day and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) partners with community organizations such as the [Healthier Kids Foundation](#) and [Santa Clara County Public Health Department \(SCCPHD\)](#) to ensure students have access to health screenings and immunizations; and

WHEREAS, the start of the school year brings an increase of foot traffic and bicycle riders to neighborhoods. As the number of students and families traveling to school via foot and bicycle increases, so does the number of pedestrian accidents and fatalities. Those traveling near schools, including both drivers and students walking or riding bikes to school, must be educated on safety measures to reduce the risk of accidents; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE participates in the Santa Clara County [Vision Zero](#) initiative. An initiative helping communities eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users — while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility; and

WHEREAS, additional resources for pedestrian safety include the [Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition](#) and the [Safe Routes to School](#). Schools are encouraged to promote safety measures that allow for students, families, and staff to arrive and depart school campuses; and

WHEREAS, the beginning of the school year also means a return to school athletics. Student athletes' safety remains a key priority for schools throughout the county. The well-being of student athletes, who engage in physical activities, requires specific attention to prevent injuries and promote overall health; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control reports that approximately 3 million sports and recreational concussions occur every year. The [California Interscholastic Federation](#) has worked with policymakers to ensure there are concussion and return-to-play protocols in place throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, student athletes, [12 years of age and older, are encouraged to participate in heart screenings](#) in addition to their sports physicals as [one in 300 children have an undiagnosed heart condition](#); and

WHEREAS, additional means to establishing a healthy and safe school year include, but are not limited to, creating sound sleeping routines, eating balanced meals, and staying up to date with routine checkups and immunizations; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County of Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution acknowledging the value of and supports establishing healthy and safe starts to the school year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 4, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Sreekrishnan

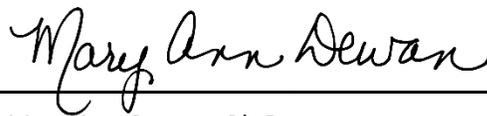
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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