

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND CELEBRATING NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2447-2**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) and the County Superintendent of Schools are honored to join communities throughout the country to recognize and celebrate September 15, 2024, as the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is dedicated to serving and providing resources to Hispanic and Latino/a communities, celebrating their rich cultural heritage, and honoring the shared connections within these vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, every year, since 1968, from September 15 to October 15 the United States (U.S.) celebrates Hispanic and Latino/a culture and contributions to our nation and local community; and

WHEREAS, this is an opportunity to share the historical contributions of Hispanic and Latino/a people that have significantly impacted education. Pioneers such as Roberto Alvarez, whose groundbreaking case *Roberto Alvarez v. Lemon Grove School District* (CA, 1931) was the first successful school desegregation case in American history;¹ and

WHEREAS, throughout the year, the SCCOE honors the contributions of Hispanic and Latino/a people in local history as well as celebrates the contributions of those who serve our communities and schools every day. Leaders such as civil rights trail blazers Cesar Chavez and Dolores Clara Fernandez Huerta, who have had schools constructed and named in their honor, and “La Madrina of East San José” Blanca Alvarado, who was the first Latina San José Councilmember and Santa Clara County Supervisor²; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 Hispanic/Latino/a people made up 27 percent of the population in Santa Clara County according to the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley³, which is above the average of 19 percent in the U.S. according to the Census⁴; and

WHEREAS, to support the student population, the SCCOE has fostered strong partnerships in the community, including partnering with the Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF) Eastside Alliance to promote and provide training for culturally relevant math instruction leading to increased math scores for Hispanic and Latino/a children; and

WHEREAS, other partnerships have been formed, such as with the Hispanic Education Foundation of Silicon Valley, which provides support to students and families through their Latinos in Technology Initiative and other programs that promote parent engagement and leadership development; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE remains dedicated to providing resources and programming for Spanish-speaking communities; offers translation services and training for teachers, schools, and school districts;

¹ <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/lemon-grove-incident/>

² <https://www.kqed.org/news/11957805/from-cesar-chavez-to-la-pulga-latino-activists-make-their-mark-on-san-jose>

³ <https://www.hfsv.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023LatinoReportCard.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2023/hispanic-heritage-month.html>

continues recruitment efforts to attract diverse educators into the teaching profession; promotes multilingual education through our Multilingual Education Services and involvement with the California Association of Bilingual Education (CABE), and continues to support safe schools and resources for undocumented students; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE recognizes the significant contributions of Hispanic and Latino/a people in our community, state, and the world, as leaders, scientists, politicians, educators, public servants, and more; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to strongly acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and contributions of the Hispanic and Latino/a community during National Hispanic Heritage Month and beyond.

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