

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING OCTOBER AS BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2306-2**

WHEREAS, National Bullying Prevention Month is observed during the month of October, and its goal is to encourage schools and communities to work together to stop all forms of bullying, cyberbullying, and put an end to hatred and racism by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, one in five students ages 12-18 has been bullied during the school year. Approximately 160,000 teens have skipped school because of bullying, according to The National Education Association; and

WHEREAS, bullying puts all youth at increased risk for depression, suicidal ideation, misuse of drugs and alcohol, experiencing sexual violence, engaging in unsafe sex practices, and can affect academics as well; and

WHEREAS, students who experience bullying are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school; PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center reports that bullied students indicate that bullying has a negative effect on how they feel about themselves (27%), their relationships with friends and family (19%), their school work (19%), and physical health (14%); and

WHEREAS, according to the Institute of Educational Sciences high school students who self-identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community report having been bullied on school property (32%) and cyberbullied (26.6%) more in the past year than their straight peers (17.1% and 14.1%, respectively); 35.3% of students with behavioral and emotional disorders, 33.9% of students with autism, 24.3% of students with intellectual disabilities, 20.8% of students with health impairments, and 19% of students with specific learning disabilities face high levels of bullying victimization; Studies show that more than one-third of adolescents reporting bullying report bias-based school bullying; and

WHEREAS, more than half of bullying situations (57%) stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the student being bullied; and, labeling an incident as bullying can be important because it influences whether students tell an adult, as well as how adults respond to the student's report; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCBOE) supports board policy, BP 5131.26, on anti-bullying to encourage positive behaviors and in creating a safe learning and working environment for all students and employees and to protect all students and employees from all forms of bullying, harassment, hazing, discrimination, or intimidation of any type for any reason; resources are available for staff and community on the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) website; and BP 51577 to advise staff regarding issues relating to transgender, non-binary and gender-expansive students in order to create and maintain a safe learning environment for all students and to ensure that every student has equal access to the SCCOE's educational programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education remains committed to equity and offering supports to schools and districts regardless of their students' abilities and/or disabilities in partnership with the Public Health Department of Santa Clara County and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) throughout the county; the Santa Clara County Office of Education houses a Positive Behavior Intervention Support technical assistance center which encourages schools to participate in data-based decision making that includes the California Healthy Kids Survey, and provides valuable data relating to the perception of student safety and addresses bullying specifically; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize the month of October 2022 as Santa Clara County Bullying Prevention Month, with the intention that the issue of bullying and its prevention be discussed in Santa Clara County schools and learning environments and to promoting dialogue between educators, parents, and students on their roles in addressing and preventing bullying and also encouraging organizations to share information about their bullying prevention resources; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize October as Bullying Prevention Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on September 21, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: President Ortiz, Vice President Chon, Trustees Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah, Rossi and Sreekrishnan

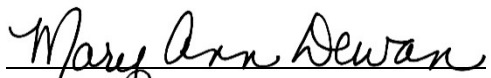
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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