

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, DENOUNCING ISLAMOPHOBIA AND RELIGIOUS
DISCRIMINATION, AND SUPPORTING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2693-3**

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education is committed to educational environments in which every student is treated with dignity and respect and is provided equitable access to educational opportunities without unlawful discrimination; and

WHEREAS, freedom of religion is a fundamental constitutional principle that protects individuals of all faiths, as well as individuals who profess no religious belief; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County's religious and cultural diversity strengthens its schools and communities, and Muslim students, families, educators, and community members make important contributions throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education has previously recognized American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month, denounced Islamophobia, expressed solidarity with Muslim communities, and affirmed its commitment to education, understanding, cultural competency, and inclusive learning environments; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education has previously condemned hateful speech and violence directed at Muslims and those perceived as Muslims and has affirmed the importance of school environments that reject bullying and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, stereotypes or generalized statements associating acts of terrorism, violence, or extremism with an entire religious community can contribute to prejudice, division, and discrimination and undermine efforts to create welcoming educational environments; and

WHEREAS, public education leaders have a responsibility to uphold constitutional principles, nondiscrimination requirements, and standards of respectful governance while recognizing and respecting the constitutional rights of individuals; and

WHEREAS, recent events within a Santa Clara County school district have generated community concern regarding religious inclusion, Islamophobia, and the responsibility of educational leaders to promote environments in which students and families of all religious beliefs feel welcomed and respected; and

WHEREAS, these concerns provide an opportunity for educational leaders throughout Santa Clara County to reaffirm shared commitments to religious freedom, nondiscrimination, civil discourse, and belonging; now

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

1. Denounces Islamophobia and all forms of religious bigotry, discrimination, harassment, and hate directed toward individuals or communities because of their actual or perceived religious beliefs or practices;

2. Affirms its support for Muslim students, families, educators, employees, and community members and their right to participate fully in public education without unlawful discrimination or harassment;
3. Rejects stereotypes and generalizations that attribute terrorism, violence, extremism, or other wrongful acts to an entire religious community;
4. Affirms the constitutional principles of religious freedom and governmental neutrality toward religion, including respect for individuals of all faiths and those who practice no religion;
5. Reaffirms that public schools should be welcoming and inclusive environments in which students and families are treated with dignity, respect, and equal consideration;
6. Calls upon educational leaders throughout Santa Clara County to exercise their public responsibilities consistent with constitutional principles, applicable nondiscrimination requirements, and respectful governance;
7. Encourages local educational agencies to review, as appropriate, their policies and practices concerning nondiscrimination, religion-based bullying and harassment, governance standards, and inclusive school climates; and
8. Encourages continued education and professional learning regarding religious liberty, nondiscrimination, civil rights, cultural competency, and effective governance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education remains committed to promoting understanding across differences and supporting educational environments where every student and family experiences dignity, belonging, and opportunity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution expresses the values and educational commitments of the Santa Clara County Board of Education and is not intended to determine individual legal liability, impose discipline upon any individual, or interfere with the governance authority or lawful processes of another local educational agency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on October 21, 2026, by the following vote:

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

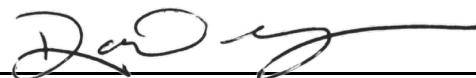
NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Jorge Pacheco



Victoria Chon, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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