

**RESOLUTION  
TO PROCLAIM DECEMBER 2, 2018 AS NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2233-1**

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) as a provider of evidence-based programs and practices, specially targeted at building equity and narrowing the achievement and opportunity gaps for all underserved students; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE is a recipient of the California Equity Performance and Improvement Program Grant funds which are allocated to support and build capacity within the county office of education to promote equity within Santa Clara County schools for students with disabilities, African American students, and English Language Learners; and

**WHEREAS**, students with disabilities in Santa Clara County graduate at an average of 70-percent which is a number lower than their class cohort average of 83-percent; and

**WHEREAS**, to narrow this achievement gap, the SCCOE has formed a Special Education Task Force with local districts, community groups, agencies, parents, and other stakeholders to examine the continuum of services for students with disabilities countywide; and

**WHEREAS**, National Special Education Day marks the anniversary of the nation's first federal special education law--signed by President Gerald Ford on December 2, 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, as a nation, we've come a long way since 1975, but we still have important work ahead to provide access to education for all children, including children with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, National Special Education Day is a time to honor progress and celebrate the almost 29,000 students with disabilities in Santa Clara County--and their teachers, administrators, parents, and schools; and

**WHEREAS**, SCCOE's commitment to providing high quality educational services to students with disabilities, embodies a focus on equity, access, partnership, and inclusion; and

**WHEREAS**, SCCOE directly serves 187 early learning students with special needs and 1,510 students with disabilities, our Special Educational Local Plan Area (SELPA) serves the 29,000 students in our region, and our Inclusion Collaborative has a statewide impact of almost 200,000 students; and

**WHEREAS**, SCCOE's Special Education Department partners with the county's schools to serve students with disabilities from birth to age 22, and provide a variety of services for children and students with severe or low-incidence disabilities through instructional programs divided into Early Education (birth to age 3), preschool, elementary, secondary and post-senior; and

**WHEREAS**, our Inclusion Collaborative, established in 2004 and with support from Charmaine Warmenhoven, provides a wealth of resources to organizations interested in adopting Person-First Terminology and has a proven track record of supporting schools and agencies in embracing inclusive practices; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014 the Inclusion Collaborative established an annual state conference, an interactive and reflective educational opportunity to understand and learn evidenced-based practices for individuals involved in the education and care of children from birth to 12th grade with and without disabilities to create or enhance equity and inclusive practices in their respective programs and communities in which they live. Since inception, this conference has had over 3,500 participants; and

**WHEREAS**, California's public schools must support all students, and that includes our children with disabilities which is a fundamental issue of fairness, while providing essential special education services that empower students to achieve their full academic potential; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Santa Clara County Board of Education does hereby proclaim December 2, 2018 as National Special Education Day. In so doing, the Board calls upon schools, districts, and other community organizations in Santa Clara County to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities and to advance its important message that people with disabilities deserve a high quality education and appropriate support services.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on November 7, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: President Kamei, Vice President Song, Trustees Di Salvo, King, Mah, Green and Rossi

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Rosemary Kamei, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Dr. Mary Ann Dewan  
County Superintendent of Schools