

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2309-2**

WHEREAS, December 2nd is recognized as National Special Education Day. This day celebrates the 47th anniversary of the nation's first special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), which was signed by President Ford on December 2, 1975; and

WHEREAS, IDEA makes a free appropriate public education (FAPE) available to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and other related services be made available to the students; and

WHEREAS, IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early interventions, special education, and related services to infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the California School Dashboard has not been updated since 2018-19 due to the COVID pandemic. The California Department of Education (CDE) data (2018-19) states that special education services were provided to 795,047 individuals, newborn through twenty-two years of age; and

WHEREAS, 2018-19 CDE data for the Santa Clara County revealed that special education services were provided to 29,292 individuals, newborn through twenty-two years of age; and

WHEREAS, California, at no cost to parents, provides specially designed instruction to meet the needs and settings that allow infants and their families, preschoolers, students, and young adults to be educated with their peers as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) Special Education Department partners with the county's schools to serve students with disabilities from birth to age 22; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE's Special Education Department provides services to students with disabilities attending court schools, community schools, preschool and pediatric-skilled nursing facilities; and

WHEREAS, other programs that are available through the Special Education Department at the SCCOE include: CONNECT which promotes college-aged students' exploration of vocational, educational and recreational options through partnerships with local community groups; the Orthopedic Impairments Program serves students from birth to age 22 who have a physical, health or neuromuscular disorder that interferes with their access to the mainstream educational curriculum; and, WorkAbility I which assists students with the transition from school to work, allowing students aged 16-22 to stay in school while developing pre-employment and worksite skills; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE's Special Education Department also has an Augmentative Alternative Communication/Assistive Technology Team that assists families, educators, and professionals in Santa Clara County with building their knowledge, use, and implementation of Assistive Technology (AT) and Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE operates the Inclusion Collaborative with a mission to promote a culture that values all children by strengthening, sustaining, and ensuring inclusive practices regardless of a student's ability or disability. The Inclusion Collaborative strives to create full access to a quality inclusive learning and community environment; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE strives to be "the central active leader and voice on critical education issues" in this county, and believes that this voice should be one of equity, acceptance and respect and therefore has adopted Person-First Terminology. Using Person-First Terminology by placing the person ahead of their label or disability shows that each person has value; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE sponsored Senate Bill 692, signed into law on September 30, 2022, which helps ensure all students are general education students first, including students with disabilities, schools and programmatic planning are reflective of student needs, general education classrooms and programs are considered the first setting for all students, and schools use all data on students with disabilities, with a focus on the least restrictive environment; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is committed to improving student equity and access to high-quality education; to providing quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities; and being a premier service organization; 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 December 2nd as National Special Education Day.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on November 16, 2022, by the following vote:

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

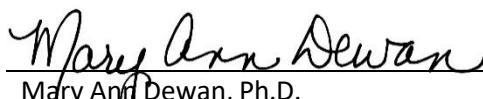
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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