

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2290-2**

**WHEREAS**, December 2nd is recognized as National Special Education Day. This day celebrates the 49th anniversary of the nation's first special education law as the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) was signed on December 2, 1972; and

**WHEREAS**, the IDEA law 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**, 2018-19 California Department of Education data states that special education services were provided to 795,047 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 Special Education Department partners with the county's schools to serve students with disabilities from birth to age 22; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's Special Education Department provides services to students with disabilities attending court schools, community schools and pediatric-skilled nursing facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, other programs that are available through the Special Education Department at the Santa Clara County Office of Education 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 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 Santa Clara County Office of Education's Special Education Department also has a 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 Santa Clara County Office of Education 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

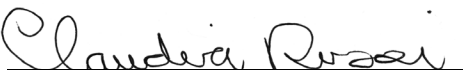
**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education strives to be "the central active leader and voice on critical education issues" in this county, and believes that this voice should be one of equity, acceptance and respect and therefore has adopted Person-First Terminology. Using Person-First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

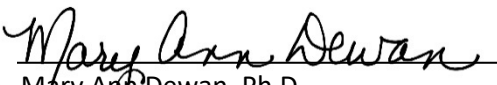
**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to improving student equity and access to high quality education regardless of a student's ability or disability; to providing quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities; and being a premier service organization; 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 17, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: President Rossi, Vice President Ortiz, Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Kamei, Sreekrishnan, and Mah  
NOES: none  
ABSTAIN: none  
ABSENT: none

  
Claudia Rossi, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education

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