

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION No. 2272-1**

**WHEREAS**, November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. Every year, hundreds of thousands of American families become homeless, including more than 1.6 million children; and

**WHEREAS**, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, homeless children and youth are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence including those sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act further defines homeless children and youth as those who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

**WHEREAS**, the homeless youth population also includes unaccompanied youth who have left home for one or more nights without permission; youth who have been kicked out of their homes, are abandoned, deserted, or prevented from returning home; and, systems youth who have either aged out of foster care or have been released from juvenile justice or other public systems with nowhere to go; and

**WHEREAS**, California notes that it is difficult to obtain and maintain accurate data around homeless youth, and estimates that 200,000 youth under the age of 18 and thousands of 18-24 year olds are homeless for one or more days during a year; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2019 Homeless Census and Survey, Santa Clara County reported 9,706 homeless individuals. Within that count, 17% of the county's homeless were ages 18-24 and 8% were under the age of 18. The census and survey also reported 1,876 individuals were unaccompanied youth and young adults - 95% of which were unsheltered; and

**WHEREAS**, schools within Santa Clara County reported having 2,899 McKinley-Vento students in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the varying definitions of homelessness, and the difficulty in capturing accurate data, the county statistics do not necessarily reflect the numbers captured in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The Santa Clara County Office of Education has established programs to best assist

schools and school districts in capturing accurate data and assisting in the alignment of services to best serve students and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education has established a program dedicated to the coordination of foster youth services and homeless youth education services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program and Homeless Youth Education Services (FYS/HES) Department's mission is to deploy support to local education agencies (LEAs) designed to address the educational needs of foster and homeless youth within Santa Clara County. This is done by providing assistance and training to connect school districts and community stakeholders as well as keep them abreast on educational law that protects foster and homeless youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program and Homeless Youth Education Services Department also collaborates with group home providers, the juvenile justice system, and the Department of Family and Children Services Prevention Bureau as well as other agencies and organizations that are dedicated to working with foster and homeless youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program and Homeless Youth Education Services also has the *Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit* available as a comprehensive tool with the most useful and current information on increasing access to and success in education for children and youth experiencing homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education is committed to improving student equity and access to high quality education; to providing quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities; as well as 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 November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

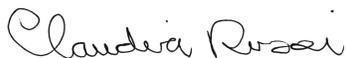
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on November 18, 2020, by the following vote:

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

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Claudia Rossi, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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