

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY AND
ED ROBERTS DAY**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2575-1**

WHEREAS, December 2, is recognized as National Special Education Day and January 23, is recognized as Ed Roberts Day. December 2 celebrates the 50th anniversary of the nation's first special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which was signed by President Ford on December 2, 1975. Ed Roberts Day honors former American disability rights activist Edward Verne Roberts; 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 are made available to students; and

WHEREAS, Ed Roberts, renowned civil rights leader and champion for people with disabilities, contracted polio at age 14 and was paralyzed from the neck down and requiring the use of a ventilator. He defied societal limitations by becoming the first student with severe disabilities admitted to the University of California, Berkeley, where he organized for accessible education and public spaces, ultimately laying the groundwork for policies and architectural standards that would revolutionize disability access worldwide; and

WHEREAS, 2024-25 data from the California Department of Education (CDE) states that special education services were provided to 29,774 individuals in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education's (SCCOE) Special Education Department partners with the county's school districts 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 offered by the Special Education Department at the SCCOE include the Early Start program, designed for infants and toddlers from birth to age 3, which provides resources and support to promote meeting developmental milestones, the Deaf Hard of Hearing program which supports the language development of English and American Sign Language, the Orthopedic Impairment program which focuses on the development of functional motor skills and independence, and the Medically-Fragile program for students who require extensive support to meet health and safety needs related to chronic medical conditions. Therapeutic programs provide continuous access to counseling and therapeutic support directly within the classroom environment and the Post-Secondary Adult Transition Program, for students 18-22 years, assists students with the transition to adulthood, including continued education, vocational skills, and independent living; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE operates the Innovations 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; 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; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing December 2 as National Special Education Day and January 23 as Ed Roberts Day.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on November 19, 2025, by the following vote:

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

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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