

**RESOLUTION
NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2253-1**

WHEREAS, the second day of December is set aside as National Special Education Day, a day to celebrate the accomplishments, reflect on the achievements, and spur reform toward providing equitable 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, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) exists to meet the emerging needs of the community and to provide leadership, advocacy, and support for children, schools, and the greater community; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE, a leader in providing high quality educational services to students with disabilities, has at its core a focus on equity, access, partnership, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE provides EPIC (Education Preparation for Inclusive Classrooms) an accredited educator preparation program in Special Education that focuses on inclusion in Moderate/Severe and Early Childhood Education. Since the program's inception 77 candidates have earned a special education teaching credential. The program numbers continue to grow with 110 students currently earning a credential with teaching interns in 23 different school districts and Curriculum and Instructional leaders to ensure that EPIC is incorporating the current context of learning in special education in its coursework; 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, the SCCOE is 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 plays a pivotal role in the educational needs of the community by providing direct services to almost 1,700 students with disabilities through the Early Start and Special Education programs and provides indirect services to almost 29,000 students in our region through our Special Educational Local Plan Area (SELPA) and almost 200,000 across the state through our Inclusion Collaborative program; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE has published a study of the continuum of Special Education Services in Santa Clara County which will be distributed amongst districts and community stakeholders. This study is part of the larger statewide task force to create one coherent, integrated system for all; 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, the SCCOE is a recipient of the California Equity Performance and Improvement Program Grant funds from the California Department of Education which are allocated to support and build capacity within the state to promote equity within Santa Clara County schools and beyond; and

WHEREAS, all children and students with disabilities are considered general education students first; and all educators, regardless of which students they are assigned to serve, have a collective responsibility to see that all children receive the education and the supports they need to maximize their development and potential, allowing them to participate meaningfully in the nation's economy and democracy; 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, 2019 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.

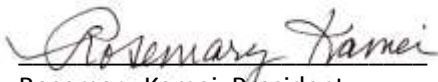
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on November 20, 2019, by the following vote:

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

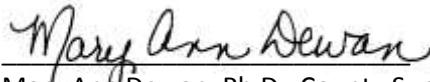
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Rosemary Kamei, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education