



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Resolution by County Board of Education opposes use of pepper spray in school facilities**

**SAN JOSE, CA** – The Santa Clara County Board of Education passed a resolution in opposition to the use of pepper spray in Santa Clara County Court Schools at its Nov. 19 meeting. The resolution was drafted in response to a pilot program approved by Santa Clara County that would permit the use of pepper spray, or oleoresin capsicum, in court schools.

According to the Youth Law Center in San Francisco, the use of pepper spray is out of step with accepted professional practice for juvenile correctional administrators, while the National Institute of Justice has found that the use of pepper spray on youth may be especially harmful, given the prevalence of asthma, undiagnosed heart conditions and other health issues in children that could be exacerbated by pepper spray.

“It is our duty as members of the County Board of Education to support the right of all students and staff to attend and work in schools that are safe,” said Leon F. Beauchman, Board President. “Research has shown that the use of pepper spray on children is dangerous, unnecessary and traumatic for students, who come to school seeking a safe and supportive environment that is free from physical and emotional pain. For these reasons, we cannot support the use of pepper spray in our court school facilities.”

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) currently operates school programs at Osborne School at Juvenile Court and Blue Ridge School at James Ranch, with SCCOE employees providing educational services.

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