



**RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HEAD START**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2163-2**

WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of Head Start, originally established as Project Head Start which was one of the major achievements of the Great Society and one of the boldest initiatives launched by the nation in the War on Poverty; and

WHEREAS, the aim of Project Head Start, launched in 1965 in the White House Rose Garden by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, was bold in scope and design; and

WHEREAS, Project Head Start was conceived as an 8-week summer program designed to provide preschool training not just to prepare 5- and 6-year-olds to enter regular school the following September, but also to give nearly half the preschool children living in poverty a head start on their future; and

WHEREAS, Project Head Start was launched not as a mere demonstration project limited to a handful of counties, but as a program national in scope serving every city, suburb and rural area in the United States because President Johnson recognized that the bleak future waiting for children trapped in poverty was not a phenomenon concentrated in the inner-cities of the large urban cities of the North but could be found in every region in every State in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing pre-school training to prepare poor children to enter regular school and help put them on an even footing with their classmates as they enter school, Project Head Start sought to help children prepare for the challenges they will face in life and to combat poverty's great weapons—hunger and malnutrition, illness and poor health, ignorance and cultural deprivation; and

WHEREAS, based on its initial 1965 success as a summer program, the following year, Project Head Start was funded as a primarily part-day, 9-month program, largely implemented through existing community action programs; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, the administration of the program was vested in the newly created Office of Child Development in what was then the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the predecessor of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Head Start was established by Public Law 93–644; and

WHEREAS, in subsequent years, Head Start programs would be expanded to serve children with disabilities, Native Americans and homeless children and to provide bilingual and bi-cultural migrant and seasonal programs; and

WHEREAS, today Head Start programs serve nearly 1,000,000 poor children, including 136,120 children with disabilities and 15,632 pregnant women, and provide services to 771,840 families; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Board of Education (SCCBOE) firmly believes that the most important investment that our community can make is an investment in early learning through programs like Head Start, which provide high quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood education services to our children; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBOE acknowledges that the services provided by Head Start Santa Clara County equip our students with a solid foundation for future success by providing safe and stimulating learning environments that foster creativity and exploration; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBOE knows how critical the Head Start program is for the families and children it serves, specifically in regards to closing the achievement gap in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBOE has been deeply committed to supporting the Head Start program for many years, having significantly lessened the impact of federal sequestration cuts on the Head Start program in 2013, by allocating to it a total of about \$1.27 million in general fund revenues and other funding relief; and

WHEREAS, the SCCBOE acknowledges the incredible work of the Head Start Santa Clara County leadership and staff, whose commitment has led to the achievement of 100-percent compliance in each triennial federal review conducted by the Administration for Children and Families over the last nine years;

WHEREAS, the SCCBOE is proud of the positive outcomes that Head Start Santa Clara County has produced for thousands of children since 1975, which include substantial economic and social benefits for our children, families and the county as a whole; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools recognize 2015 as the 50th anniversary of the Head Start program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara County Board of Education at a meeting held on July 15, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: President Green, Vice President Song, members Chang, Di Salvo, Kamei, Rossi and Mah

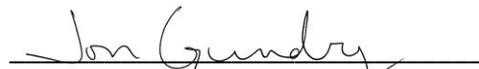
NOES: -none-

ABSTAIN: -none-

ABSENT: -none-



Darcie Green, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



Jon R. Gundry
County Superintendent of Schools