

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2440-2**

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recognized the first National Fentanyl Awareness Day, an opportunity to educate the community about the dangers of illicit fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, the first Tuesday of May is observed as National Fentanyl Awareness Day, with May 7 being recognized as the 2024 date. National Fentanyl Awareness Day brings communities and individuals together to help end this health crisis; and

WHEREAS, drug traffickers mass-produce fake or counterfeit pills to falsely market them as legitimate prescription pills and/or candy, resulting in threats to communities throughout the nation and locally; and

WHEREAS, the DEA has observed a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least two milligrams of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose. In 2023, more than 70,000 Americans fatally overdosed on illegally made fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, fake or counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. These fake or counterfeit pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them available to youth. Fentanyl is involved in more youth deaths than all other drug-related deaths combined; and

WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, drug-induced deaths among those 15 to 35 years of age have increased six-fold, largely driven by the increase in fentanyl drugs. Fentanyl-involved deaths are the fastest growing among 14 to 23-year-olds; and

WHEREAS, the California Departments of Public Health, Health Care Access and Information, and Justice, along with the California Health Care Foundation established a [dashboard](#) monitoring overdoses in the state, and each county; and

WHEREAS, from 2018 to now, [630 fentanyl-related deaths](#) have been recorded in Santa Clara County. In 2023, 227 opioid-related overdose deaths were recorded in Santa Clara County, 204 of which were fentanyl-related; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County's Fentanyl Working Group is a model for future county working groups throughout the state. The county working group includes the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE), the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project (SCCOOPP), and the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Service; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE collaborates to address the dangers of fentanyl specific to youth and works with municipalities and educational organizations to share materials specific to campaigns aimed at youth; and

WHEREAS, the [SCCOE co-sponsored Senate Bill 10 \(SB 10\)](#), which prevents opioid and fentanyl poisoning, overdoses and death among California youth. The bill requires school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to include opioid prevention and treatment in School Safety Plans; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE has provided Narcan/Naloxone training and kits to county school staff and community members. Nearly 3,000 Narcan/Naloxone kits have been distributed through distribution events and 365 school staff and community members have been trained to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and use Naloxone in an emergency. In Santa Clara County, 103 schools have access to Narcan/Naloxone on campus with supporting board policies in place; and

WHEREAS, to support student well-being, the student wellness centers in schools located across the county aid youth experiencing substance abuse; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize May 7, 2024, as National Fentanyl Awareness Day and support the work at all levels to protect the well-being of youth.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 1, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: President Berta, Vice President Rocha, and Trustees Chon, Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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