

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUESTIONING (LGBTQ+)
PRIDE MONTH AND HARVEY MILK DAY**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2441-3**

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the history of California and, at the time of his death, the most recognized political advocate for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ+) rights in the United States (U.S.). His dedication to advocating for his LGBTQ+ constituents, created space for other LGBTQ+ leaders and advocates to run for political office. For his unwavering support of the LGBTQ+ community, we recognize May 22nd as Harvey Milk Day; and

WHEREAS, June is recognized as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Pride Month. This month honors the 1969 Stonewall Riots and highlights the work to achieve justice and equal opportunity for LGBTQ+ Americans; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020, in a landmark decision for LGBTQ+ persons, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that employment discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and thus is illegal; and

WHEREAS, accepting all youth, especially LGBTQ+ youth, is critical to keeping schools safe and nurturing. Political leaders continue to make federal and local policies that include LGBTQ+ voice and ideas, increasing visibility and acceptance of LGBTQ+ youth. State law under the [Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful \(FAIR\) Education Act](#), Senate Bill 48, requires that California K-12 schools provide fair, accurate, inclusive, and respectful representations of people with disabilities and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in the curricula, and the inclusion of LGBTQ+ history in K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has created a collection of support guides to help school communities better understand issues LGBTQ+ youth face and provide resources: [LGBTQ+ District and School Policy Guide](#), [LGBTQ+ Inclusive Teaching Guide](#), and [GSA Resource Guide](#); and

WHEREAS, the [University of California Los Angeles' Williams Institute](#) estimates nearly 2 million youth identify as part of the LGBT community, with 244,000 residing in California. In 2021, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) found that one in four high school students identifies as LGBTQ+. According to [surveys](#) conducted by the SCCOE, approximately 10.2 percent of Santa Clara County students reported a sexual identity other than straight and 30 percent of students reported discomfort expressing their sexual orientation at school; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth in California experience higher rates of sexual violence, poor emotional health, substance use, and school absences compared with their straight and cisgender-identified peers; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC’s National [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance](#) results released in 2021, identifying LGBTQ+ youth are more at risk than their straight-identifying counterparts to seriously consider, plan, and/or attempt suicide. [The Trevor Project](#) estimates that 39 percent of LGBTQ+ young people seriously consider suicide in the last year, while more than one in 10 LGBTQ+ young people attempted suicide in the past year.; and

WHEREAS, lack of acceptance and affirmation increases mental health risks. [One survey](#) reports that 28 percent of transgender youth whose pronouns are not affirmed attempted suicide in the past year. That number decreased to 12 percent for those whose pronouns are affirmed by all or most people in their lives. [The Trevor Project 2024 U.S. National Survey on Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People](#) found that 54 percent of transgender and nonbinary young people found their school to be gender-affirming, and those who did reported lower rates of attempting suicide; and

WHEREAS, a recent [study](#) from LGBT Health found that one in three LGBTQ+ identifying youth experience difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep. This study focused on youth ages 10 to 14, a developmentally crucial time for mental and physical development; and

WHEREAS, researchers estimate that [20 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system](#) are lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, gender nonconforming, or transgender compared with four to six percent of youth in the general population. The same research shows that 40 percent of girls (who were assigned female at birth) in the juvenile justice system identify as LBQ and/or gender nonconforming; and

WHEREAS, according to The National Center for Transgender Equality, one in five transgender people in the U.S., has experienced discrimination when seeking a home, and more than one in 10 have been evicted from their homes because of their gender identity. Family rejection and discrimination, and violence have contributed to a large number of transgender and other LGBTQ+ identified youth who are homeless in the U.S. – an estimated 20-40 percent of the more than 1.6 million homeless youth; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is actively working to create more inclusive policies and practices that support, and uplift LGBTQ+ youth and encourages students, staff, and community members to utilize the [SCCOE LGBTQ+ Supports & Resources website](#) and its resources. As part of the Out for Safe Schools collective, the SCCOE will support districts with practices and initiatives focused on safe and supportive learning environments. [The Trevor Project’s recent 2024 survey](#) highlights that schools are considered in the top two affirming spaces and communities to LGBTQ+ youth; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Affairs, the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services’s QCorner, Santa Clara County Youth Space, and The Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC), the SCCOE provides resources to districts and stakeholders to support the LGBTQ+ students and community through services including the Safe & Healthy Schools department; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE works throughout the year to cultivate a positive environment by offering holistic support for all students through the Foster and Homeless Youth Services programs, suicide prevention, student wellness, school climate, anti-bullying, and positive behavior intervention programs; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE participates in Silicon Valley Pride each August by marching in the parade and offering free resources to those attending the festivities. Champions advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusivity,

such as school districts and educators are recognized and celebrated at the annual LGBTQ+ History Month Showcase in October. In 2022, the SCCOE was a location for BAYMEC's traveling exhibit "Coming Out: 50 Years of Queer Resistance and Resilience in Silicon Valley;" and

WHEREAS, a commitment has been made by the SCCOE to demonstrate solidarity to the LGBTQ+ community and support inclusive and welcoming environments for all by permanently raising the Progress Pride Flag; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is an institute of learning that is committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success while lifting up equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize and honor May 22, 2024, as Harvey Milk Day and the month of June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month while renewing their commitment to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 15, 2024, by the following vote:

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

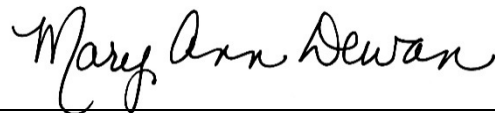
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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