

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2437-2**

WHEREAS, April 21-27 is National Environmental Education Week - the nation's largest celebration of environmental education; and

WHEREAS, National Environmental Education Week encourages advocacy for the planet through education, though all individuals are encouraged to participate; and

WHEREAS, environmental education is a chance for students to advocate, learn, and grow while experiencing the world around them. This type of education teaches youth that their actions contribute to a meaningful impact on the earth; and

WHEREAS, environmental education offers countless opportunities to improve lives, protect the environment, and prepare all residents to address critical environmental challenges ahead; and

WHEREAS, damage to the environment is evident as the global annual temperature continued to increase in 2023, with an average increase of 0.11° Fahrenheit (0.06° Celsius) per decade since 1850; and

WHEREAS, as the temperature increases, so do the consequences for society; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is one of our greatest public health crises according to more than 230 medical journals, as reported in research from the [National Library of Medicine](#); and

WHEREAS, in April 2022 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released their Sixth Assessment Report on the Mitigation of Climate Change. This report had three key findings; and

WHEREAS, the three key findings were 1) we can halve emissions by 2030, 2) the next few years are critical to achieving that goal, and 3) there needs to be alignment between the public sector, finance, and policy to do so; and

WHEREAS, California's Fourth Climate Assessment explains that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, California has signed into law Assembly Bill 285 which requires that all K-12 students receive climate change education with an emphasis on the causes of climate change, adaptation to climate change and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, California has implemented the Next Generation Science Standards which allows students to demonstrate an understanding of science skills, engage in real-world inquiry, and address climate change; and

WHEREAS, the environmental principles and concepts in California’s curriculum frameworks highlight the complex relationship between humans and the Earth and are the foundation of the environmental content taught in the model curriculum. The five principles include 1) People Depend on Natural Systems, 2) People Influence Natural Systems, 3) Natural Systems Change in Ways that People Benefit From and Can Influence, 4) There are no Permanent or Impermeable Boundaries that Prevent Matter from Flowing Between Systems, and 5) Decisions Affecting Resources and Natural Systems are Complex and Involve Many Factors; and

WHEREAS, on a local level, youth-focused organizations such as Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA), a youth-led nonprofit that empowers teens and young adults are taking steps to combat climate change and partner to create impactful education and policy initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in support of environmental education, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) offers both Walden West Environmental Education which provides science camps, summer programs, and school programs, and iSTEAM (Integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) which provides high-quality professional learning opportunities and instructional supports to improve teaching and learning in arts, career technical education (CTE), computer science, environmental literacy, mathematics, and science; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE’s environmental literacy [website](#) provides resources for community members to learn about climate action, assist school districts with curriculum, and inform educators about community events related to environmental literacy and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, to support individual campuses in their pursuit of becoming more sustainable, the SCCOE supports schools in creating a Climate Action Plan. A Climate Action Plan is a strategic framework that is detailed and aims to track and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to Global Warming; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE supports the development of school gardens and school garden curriculum across Santa Clara County through the [Growing Gardens Project](#); and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is working in partnership with California Volunteers, Office of the Governor in sponsoring California Climate Action Corps Fellows to support our school gardens and sustainability work; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE has partnered with the County of Santa Clara's Office of Sustainability to support the Youth Climate Initiative and the two youth Sustainability Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE will host the third annual Environmental Literacy Summit on April 27, 2024, to create a space for youth and educators to learn about green career pathways, school gardens for health and education, how to advocate in the community, and more; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is dedicated to creating equitable resources for youth, school communities, and educators in the field of environmental education; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution recognizing National Environmental Education Week and affirm a shared commitment to inspire and promote environmental education and advocacy of this Earth.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on March 20, 2024, by the following vote:

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

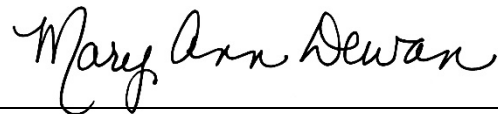
NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



Maimona Afzal Berta, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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