

RESOLUTION RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE DANGERS RELATED TO DOXXING

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2434-3**

WHEREAS, doxxing is a growing global problem with potentially harmful outcomes; and

WHEREAS, doxxing is defined as the act of publicly providing personally identifiable information about an individual or organization, usually via the internet and without their consent ^{[1][2][3]}; and

WHEREAS, the personally identifiable information is obtained from public databases and social media and the information is usually shared with the intent to bully, shame, embarrass, or extort the individual or organization. However, studies have shown that some of the personal information may be obtained illegally through hacking and social engineering; and

WHEREAS, the etymology of doxxing stems from the abbreviation doc or docs which is short for document or documents and refers to the compiling and releasing of private or difficult to obtain personal information; and

WHEREAS, doxxing originally surfaced in the 1990s when hackers would extract personal information from Dropbox documents and as the cyber world has grown so has the sharing of personal and private information; and

WHEREAS, doxxing includes dangers similar to cyberbullying as private information is shared with the intent to cause emotional, social and/or financial harm and youth are vulnerable to these harms; and

WHEREAS, per [TechReport](#), November 2023, a 2022 survey reported that one in five people have been doxxed with women falling victim at almost double the rate of men; and

WHEREAS, over half of the reported cases of doxxing are a direct result of online interactions with unknown individuals; and

WHEREAS, with social media platforms growing in popularity amongst youth - they make up over 80% of the social media accounts in the United States and Europe - their online presence makes them particularly susceptible to doxxers; and

WHEREAS, young people are at risk of having their information extracted for the purpose of cyberbullying and in-person harassment which can cause emotional and mental distress, may affect school work and attendance, and more; and

WHEREAS, currently in the United States, there is limited legal action that victims of doxxing can seek as the data privacy laws are vague; and

¹ S-W, C. (10 March 2014). "What doxxing is, and why it matters". *The Economist*. Retrieved 5 January 2016.

² Goodrich, Ryan (2 April 2013). "What is Doxxing?". *Tech News Daily*. Archived from [the original](#) on 29 October 2014. Retrieved 24 October 2013.

³ Chen, Mengtong; Cheung, Anne; Chan, Ko (14 January 2019). "Doxxing: What Adolescents Look for and Their Intentions". *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. **16** (2): 218. doi:10.3390/ijerph16020218. ISSN 1660-4601. PMC 6352099. PMID 30646551.

WHEREAS, the [University of California, Berkeley](#) has released a community guide for protecting oneself from doxxing. The guide suggests keeping social media settings private, using a Virtual Private Network (VPN), use of a strong password that varies across all platforms, etc.; and

WHEREAS, as a means to keep youth safe, many schools have both bullying and cyberbullying policies and related codes of conduct in place; and

WHEREAS, schools are encouraged to review and update policies and codes of conduct when warranted to address doxxing, and parents and guardians are encouraged to frequently monitor their child’s social media activity and to have open discussions around the sharing of personal information and practicing digital citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) offers [Digital Citizen workshops](#); and

WHEREAS, the County Superintendent of Schools established a [Data Governance Program](#) which provides for a culture of responsibility that ensures data is collected, used, and shared responsibly, securely, and ethically with internal and external educational partners. The program is guided by five areas: Data Privacy, Data Security, Data Integration, Data Quality, and Data Literacy and is designed to ensure the safety and ethical management of data throughout its lifecycle, including student data and personally identifiable information.; 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 raise awareness of doxxing and the accompanying dangers.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on February 7, 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