

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION No: 2438-2**

**WHEREAS**, May is recognized as National Mental Health Awareness Month, an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and wellness, expand knowledge of available services and programs for youth in Santa Clara County, and reduce the stigma often associated with accessing mental health care; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) played a role in establishing May 10-14, 2021, as Student Mental Health Awareness Week in [Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 68](#); and

**Whereas**, on April 30, 2023, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation declaring May 1-7, 2023, as “Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week;” and

**WHEREAS**, a youth mental health crisis continues to impact children and youth amid the lingering effect of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the three-digit dialing code, 988, that routes callers to the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline reached its one-year anniversary on July 16, 2023, and has seen an increase in overall contacts since it rebranded in July 2022 from the previous 10-digit Lifeline phone number 1-800-273-TALK; and

**WHEREAS**, the total 988 calls answered in California increased by 22% in the six months following the change, according to research from the Suicide Prevention Center at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the youth mental health crisis manifests every day in schools, contributing to higher drop-out rates, student disengagement, chronic absenteeism, increased disciplinary actions, and the tragic loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, students of color make up more than 80% of the population in Santa Clara County schools. Times of crisis and unrest in society can influence the mental health and emotional wellbeing of students of color, increasing anxiety and stress and negatively impacting their academic and career success; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing the complex social, emotional, and mental health and wellness needs of students is fundamental to the future of California; this includes reducing the stigma around accessing mental health services so students may feel empowered to speak up when they need help; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a study by the American Psychological Association (APA), children are 21 times more likely to receive the mental health services they need when services are provided on a school campus. Comprehensive and coordinated school-based mental health services for students are an essential part of a comprehensive education plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE co-sponsored SB 508 that was incorporated into the budget bill of 2021 which required health plans to collaborate with schools to provide mental health services to students on school campuses and made services more accessible to students by expanding the network of school-based mental health practitioners and use of telehealth; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE co-sponsored SB 1184, which improves the care coordination for students accessing behavioral health services. School-linked services coordinators can refer students and families to mental healthcare; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE co-sponsored AB 483, which was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on November 16, 2023. AB 483 expands access to school-based health and mental health services by streamlining processes to encourage local educational agencies (LEAs) to participate in federal reimbursement for health and mental health services provided to students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) and the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) ensure state and local governments have increased access to mental health for California students insured through Medi-Cal; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the mental health needs of youth, the SCCOE established wellness centers and programs in schools throughout Santa Clara County in partnership with the County of Santa Clara, community partners, philanthropy, and local school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE is committed to further developing partnerships between Medi-Cal Managed Care, commercial health plans, and schools to ensure that all students, including those with private health care, have ready access to services at school; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE continues its commitment to strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations that support youth mental health awareness such as the Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) program and suicide prevention services; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE believes student wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life, and firmly advocates for school-based services that increase access for all students to quality mental health care, peer supports, and wellness oriented programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE encourages activities related to raising awareness during National Mental Health Awareness Month, including parent and teacher conversations with students, removing stigma around receiving services, sharing resources, and encouraging peer-to-peer discussions; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE calls for support for legislation and state and federal funding that would increase access to school-based student mental health services; 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 as National Mental Health Awareness Month.


**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on April 17, 2024, by the following vote:

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

NOES: none

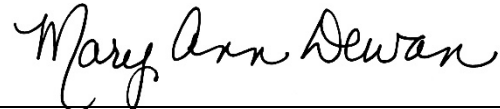
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none



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Maimona Afzal Berta, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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