



**RESOLUTION #20-07**  
**RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL BILINGUAL/MULTILINGUAL ADVOCACY**  
**MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, 46.5% of Santa Cruz County’s K-12 students speak a language other than or in addition to English in their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, “National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month” recognizes that this group of students brings multiple assets to schools and adds to the rich diversity among students; and

**WHEREAS**, “National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month” calls on stakeholders at all levels to examine the diverse needs of bilingual/multilingual learners and to build an inclusive and respectful culture; and

**WHEREAS**, “National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month” highlights a commitment to ensure educational equity and access leading these learners to thrive academically and become productive biliterate/multiliterate global citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, “National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month” encourages institutions to adopt policies and practices such as dual language instructional programs that value and use students’ languages and cultural assets to learn high academic content, promote long-term academic achievement, and increase graduation rates; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State Board of Education adopted an English Learner Roadmap in July 2017 calling for school districts to ensure that English Learner (EL) students attain high levels of English proficiency, mastery of grade level standards and have opportunities to develop proficiency in multiple languages starting in Early Childhood Education (ECE); Whereas, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is committed to aligning all of its programs and services for EL students with the State Board’s EL Roadmap and is committed to supporting districts to the same;

**NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Office of Education recognizes and celebrates April 2020 as “National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month”.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** by the Board of Education of Santa Cruz County on this **16th day of April, 2020** by the following vote:

AYES: Barr, Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Sales, Sanchez, Van Allen

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



Sue Roth, President  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary  
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools