



**RESOLUTION #23-18**  
**RECOGNIZING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER (LGBTQ+)**  
**PRIDE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, June is a time to celebrate our dynamic LGBTQ+ community, raise awareness of quality services, and foster a dialogue to promote healthy, safe, and prosperous school climate and communities for all; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 50 years have passed since the June, 1969, Stonewall riots in New York City, and the birth of an activist movement; and

**WHEREAS**, June is recognized and celebrated as LGBTQ+ pride month throughout the country and worldwide;

**WHEREAS**, California state law now addresses discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying towards LGBTQ+ youth; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been numerous studies indicating the inequities experienced by the LGBTQ+ community, including poverty, homelessness, school harassment, physical assault, domestic violence, hate crimes, mental health issues, and substance abuse concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, bullying in schools is a serious matter that impacts student health and safety, and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) supports and advocates for a model of safe and inclusive schools, for all students and especially for LGBTQ+ students, articulating our vision as “when students feel safe, supported and included in school, their learning increases, their engagement increases and more students graduate from high school who are college and career ready”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz COE has an LGBTQ+ Task Force composed of representatives from all school districts, charter schools and independent schools in Santa Cruz County, and the task force meets quarterly to identify the ongoing needs of our LGBTQ+ students; and

**WHEREAS**, recent events have raised awareness of LGBTQ+ issues including the Santa Cruz COE LGBTQ+ History Month Kickoff in October, the Rainbow Flag Raising and Harvey Milk

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Day Celebration in May, and the Santa Cruz COE's release of the Top 40 LGBTQ+ Books that Every School Library Should Have in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz COE website, [santacruzcoe.org](http://santacruzcoe.org), on a page entitled “Supporting the Safety of LGBTQ+ Students and Families” lists supportive resources for LGBTQ+ students, their teachers and principals, their families and our community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and County Superintendent proclaim June as LGBTQ+ Pride Month to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education on this 18th day of May, 2023, by the following vote:

<b>Ayes:</b>	Acosta, Alto, Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen
<b>Nays:</b>	None
<b>Abstain:</b>	None
<b>Absent:</b>	None



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Bruce Van Allen  
Board President



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Dr. Faris Sabbah  
County Superintendent of Schools  
Secretary, Santa Cruz County Board of Education