



RESOLUTION #23-19
RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH

WHEREAS, June 19th is nationally recognized as Juneteenth — the oldest known American celebration of the ending of slavery; and

WHEREAS, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19th to announce the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were now free; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations have since been held to commemorate African American freedom from slavery, and honoring this day, more than 150 years later, helps us learn our history and better understand the experiences of African Americans that shaped this nation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrations have become a tradition shared by Black Americans to celebrate community resiliency and Black American cultural achievements; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) advocates for the continuance of the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth to acknowledge and condemn the atrocities and degradation of our shared past and honors this day of resilience in the face of injustice and inhumanity for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz COE acknowledges the historical relevance of this significant event and the generational trauma that accompanies being subject to racism, discrimination, and prejudice as a barrier to positive mental and physical health and well-being, economic opportunity, and academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz COE remains committed to improving student equity and access to high quality education as well as to providing quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize and honor June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth and remain committed to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county.

Resolution #23-19 Recognizing Juneteenth
Santa Cruz County Board of Education
May 18, 2023

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

Ayes:	Acosta, Alto, Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None



Bruce Van Allen
Board President



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