



RESOLUTION #23-27
RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, suicide is the 9th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 to 34; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one person dies by suicide every 11.7 minutes, resulting in nearly 45,000 deaths each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the only leading cause of death in the United States that has increased every year for the past decade; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 1,200,000 suicide attempts each year; and

WHEREAS, there are an average of 130 suicides each day in the United States; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable, as 9 out of 10 suicide attempt survivors do not go on to die by suicide; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

WHEREAS, September is recognized as “National Suicide Prevention Month” in the United States which overlaps with World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10th, recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is committed to:

1. Recognizing suicide as a preventable national, State and local public health problem;
2. Supporting the declaration that suicide prevention should be a priority;

3. Supporting the designation of September as “National Suicide Prevention Month”;
4. Developing and implementing strategies to increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.
5. Increasing awareness of the new 9-8-8 crisis hotline in the school community
6. Participating in suicide prevention initiatives by working with local organizations that listen to and support those who are at risk for suicide.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 10th day of August 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Acosta, Alto, Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Bruce Van Allen, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



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