



Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • www.santacruzcoe.org
Mr. Ed Acosta • Ms. Alyssa Alto • Mr. Edward Estrada • Ms. Sandra Nichols
Ms. Sue Roth • Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen

Student Trustee: Mr. Oscar Alvarez-Delgado

RESOLUTION #23-36

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 24 and 1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25 in the United States experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, U.S. public schools enroll more than one million children and youth experiencing homelessness each school year; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 2,709 children and youth experienced homelessness in Santa Cruz County in the 22/23 School Year; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of youth experiencing homelessness are members of historically underserved populations, including youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth; and

WHEREAS, youth experiencing homelessness on their own are more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse, labor or sex trafficking, and other forms of exploitation; and

WHEREAS, students experiencing homelessness continue to face challenges due to high levels of school mobility, residential mobility, educational disruption, unmet basic needs, and homelessness-related trauma and stress; and

WHEREAS, youth without a high school credential are 346% more likely to experience homelessness than their peers who complete high school; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Students in Transition program provides assistance to children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness, including implementing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, with a focus on ensuring their educational rights and protections; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Students in Transition program aims to bring greater awareness of the challenges and needs experienced by children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness and the resources available to address those challenges and needs; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 Congress passed its first resolution recognizing November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month to build awareness of the issue of youth homelessness, including its causes and potential solutions, and highlight the need to work to prevent homelessness among children and teens; and

WHEREAS, schools and organizations across the country have continued to recognize November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month each year to bring greater awareness to the issue of youth homelessness; applaud the efforts of businesses, organizations, and volunteers dedicated to meeting the needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness, and grow the commitment to intensify efforts to prevent and end homelessness among young people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and Office of Education would demonstrate commitment to improving the educational outcomes, housing outcomes, and overall well-being of children and youth experiencing homelessness by bringing attention to and supporting National Homeless Youth Awareness Month events and initiatives throughout Santa Cruz County during the month of November in 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Santa Cruz County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month and hereby request that schools, families, and community leaders of Santa Cruz County recognize the unique challenges and needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness and commit to increasing both awareness of the issues impacting these children, youth, and families and their commitment to helping them succeed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of November 2023, by the following vote:

AYES: Alto, Estrada, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Alvarez-Delgado

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: Acosta



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



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