



**RESOLUTION #24-30**  
**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.

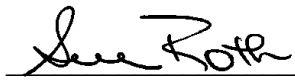
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 15th day of August 2024, by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Estrada, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

**Nays:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Absent:** Acosta, Nichols



Sue Roth  
Board President



Dr. Faris Sabbah  
County Superintendent of Schools