



**SANTA CRUZ**  
COUNTY OFFICE OF  
**EDUCATION**  
DR. FARIS SABBAH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • [www.santacruzcoe.org](http://www.santacruzcoe.org)

**Mr. Ed Acosta • Mr. Edward Estrada • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth**  
**Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams**

**Student Trustee: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus**

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## **RESOLUTION #25-16**

### **RECOGNIZING LGBTQIA2S+ PRIDE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, June is a time to celebrate our dynamic LGBTQIA2S+ 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 LGBTQIA2S+ pride month throughout the country and worldwide;

**WHEREAS**, California state law now addresses discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying towards LGBTQIA2S+ youth; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been numerous studies indicating the inequities experienced by the LGBTQIA2S+ 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 LGBTQIA2S+ 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 LGBTQIA2S+ 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 LGBTQIA2S+ students; and

**WHEREAS**, recent events have raised awareness of LGBTQIA2S+ issues including the Santa Cruz COE LGBTQIA2S+ History Month Kickoff in October, the Rainbow Flag Raising and

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Harvey Milk Day Celebration in May, the 28th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards last week, and the Santa Cruz COE's release of the Top 40 LGBTQIA2S+ Books that Every School Library Should Have in 2022;

**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 LGBTQIA2S+ students, their teachers and principals, their families and our community; and

**WHEREAS**, recent changes in federal policy, funding and staffing are creating significant new concerns and uncertainties for many LGBTQIA2S+ students, teachers, staff, families, allies and other community members;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and County Superintendent proclaim June as LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Month to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all Santa Cruz County school districts and schools are encouraged to join the County Office of Education in flying the rainbow Pride Progress flag throughout the month of June in support of our LGBTQIA2S+ community.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education on this 15th day of May, 2025, by the following vote:

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams</b>
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>Acosta</b>

Abel Sanchez, Board President  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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