



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

Student Trustees: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus

RESOLUTION #25-20
AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND OPPOSING
MILITARIZED ENFORCEMENT IN SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC SPACES

WHEREAS, the recent deployment of California National Guard and U.S. military personnel into communities without state approval constitutes an alarming and unjustified show of force, particularly when directed at protesters and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, immigration enforcement actions have become increasingly brazen, targeting immigrant neighborhoods and worksites in a manner that appears discriminatory, intended to provoke fear, and motivated by draconian and arbitrary quotas reportedly imposed by federal officials; and

WHEREAS, such actions have caused significant fear, trauma, and disruption within immigrant communities across California, including here in Santa Cruz County, where many students, families, and educators live in mixed-status households or come from immigrant backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, peaceful protest and civic participation are constitutionally protected activities and fundamental to our democracy, and the use of military-style tactics to suppress them undermines these essential rights; and

WHEREAS, studies show that immigration enforcement actions in or near schools lead to declines in student attendance, concentration, and mental health, disproportionately affecting Latine students and undermining the educational mission of our schools; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of Santa Cruz County's children are part of immigrant families, and our educational institutions benefit from the strength, cultural richness, and contributions of these students and their families every day; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County schools, agencies, and community partners have committed to creating inclusive environments where students are valued, regardless of immigration status, and where learning is not disrupted by fear of enforcement; and

WHEREAS, educators and staff in Santa Cruz County have consistently stood in support of all students, upholding the rights of immigrant youth through trauma-informed practices, culturally responsive instruction, and county-wide training and notification procedures aligned with the California Attorney General's guidance; and

WHEREAS, schools must continue to be sanctuaries of learning, growth, and safety for students of all backgrounds and identities; and

WHEREAS, the California Constitution and Education Code guarantee every student's right to a free, safe, and equitable public education, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, state laws—including the California Values Act (SB 54), TRUST Act (AB 4), TRUTH Act (AB 2792), Senate Bill 48, and Assembly Bill 699—provide vital protections that limit immigration enforcement activities in and around school campuses; and

WHEREAS, these laws collectively prohibit discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or retaliation in schools based on immigration status; restrict the collection and sharing of personal information regarding immigration status; and require the adoption of policies that limit assistance with immigration enforcement at public schools; and

WHEREAS, Board Policy 5145.13 affirms that no student shall face discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or denial of rights based on immigration status, and further prohibits staff from assisting with immigration enforcement at school sites; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration agents are prohibited from entering school campuses without a valid judicial warrant; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom has publicly opposed the unilateral deployment of federal military personnel in California communities, calling such actions “purposefully inflammatory” and counterproductive to the principles of state sovereignty and community trust;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education condemns the unauthorized use of federal military or law enforcement personnel against civilians and in proximity to schools or school-related activities, particularly when such actions target immigrant communities or peaceful protestors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirms that all students—regardless of immigration status—have the right to a safe, inclusive, and supportive educational environment, free from fear, harassment, or surveillance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board commits to the continued implementation of state laws and Board policies that prohibit assistance with immigration enforcement in educational settings, including but not limited to the California Values Act, TRUST Act, TRUTH Act, and SB 48.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board calls upon the California State Legislature and the United States Congress to strengthen protections for immigrant communities and school campuses, and to oppose any use of federal military force for domestic enforcement without state request or oversight.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board urges all school districts and public agencies in Santa Cruz County and throughout California to adopt similar resolutions that uphold the sanctity of education, affirmatively support immigrant families, and denounce militarized actions against immigrant communities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education on this 12th day of June, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

NAYS:

ABSENT: Acosta

ABSTAIN:



Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



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