



**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 Trustees: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus**

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**RESOLUTION #25-21**  
**RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND IMPACTFUL ACTION IN**  
**ADDRESSING THE FENTANYL CRISIS**

**WHEREAS**, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approximately 50 times more potent than heroin, and is increasingly manufactured illegally and distributed by criminal organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, fentanyl is often illicitly mixed into other drugs such as heroin and cocaine, or pressed into counterfeit pills resembling prescription medications like Percocet, Xanax, and Adderall—products frequently marketed to youth, including via social media and online platforms; and

**WHEREAS**, ingestion of even a small amount of fentanyl can lead to overdose, respiratory failure, and death—especially when taken unknowingly in laced substances; and

**WHEREAS**, drug overdose/poisoning is now the third leading cause of death among youth and young adults ages 15-24, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Cruz County experiences one of the highest opioid-related death rates among neighboring counties, and multiple school campuses in the region have reported administering naloxone—better known by its brand name, Narcan—to reverse suspected opioid overdoses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and its partners have hosted seven countywide screenings of the film Fentanyl High, drawing more than 950 attendees and raising critical awareness among students, families, and educators; and

**WHEREAS**, community-wide efforts have resulted in the distribution of more than 2,750 doses of naloxone and 1,250 educational booklets in English and Spanish; and

**WHEREAS**, all middle and high schools in the county now maintain naloxone in first aid stations with trained staff prepared to administer it in the event of an overdose; and

**WHEREAS**, the countywide educational events were made possible by the collaboration of committed partners, including Fentanyl High filmmaker Kyle Santoro, Carrie Luther, CineLux Theaters, SafeRx Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz Community Health, Janus of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Salud Para La Gente, Watsonville Community Hospital, Santa Cruz City Schools, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, and the Scotts Valley Unified School District;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education commends and expresses deep appreciation to all partners, community organizations, health agencies, and school districts contributing to the countywide effort to prevent opioid overdoses and increase awareness of fentanyl's dangers;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education affirms its commitment to supporting school-based health education, harm reduction strategies, and the widespread availability of naloxone as vital tools in combating the youth opioid crisis.


**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 26th day of June 2025, by the following vote:


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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Acosta, Sanchez

  
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Edward Estrada, Board Vice-President  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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