

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 #25-24 RECOGNIZING JULY AS DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark civil rights law prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, was signed into law on July 26, 1990; and

**WHEREAS**, July is recognized across the United States as Disability Pride Month, marking the anniversary of the ADA and celebrating the history, cultures, identities, and contributions of the disability community; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 70 million adults in the United States have disabilities, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than 3 million children have disabilities, according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and

**WHEREAS**, people with disabilities—whether visible or invisible, congenital or acquired, physical, cognitive, sensory, or neurodivergent—continue to face barriers to full inclusion in education, employment, housing, health care, and community life; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with disabilities contribute meaningfully across all sectors of society, including science, technology, the arts, law, education, sports, and public service; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Cruz County schools serve thousands of students with disabilities and are committed to fostering inclusive, accessible, and equitable learning environments for all; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education holds a central role in providing services to students with disabilities and their families, including through programs that serve students with the most intensive needs and through administration of the North Santa Cruz County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA); and

**WHEREAS**, Disability Pride Month is an opportunity to celebrate the strength, leadership, and accomplishments of the disability community and to reaffirm our collective responsibility to eliminate discrimination and advance equity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes the month of July as Disability Pride Month;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board encourages all educational institutions, public agencies, community organizations, and residents in Santa Cruz County to observe Disability Pride Month with appropriate activities, educational programs, and celebrations that promote inclusion, accessibility, and understanding;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education reaffirms its commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of people with disabilities and advancing policies and practices that ensure all students have the opportunity to thrive.

**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

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

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