



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBABH • 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 • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2025
5:30 p.m.
Boardroom and/or Zoom

Members of the public may join the meeting either by attending in-person or joining the live video-conference using the following link:

<https://santacruzcoe-org.zoom.us/j/85145581945>

Alternatively, join by phone using the following phone number at the time of the meeting:

Phone Number: +1 (669) 444-9171
Meeting ID: 851 4558 1945

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Any person wishing to make a public comment will have the opportunity to do so either in-person or via videoconference during the meeting for up to three minutes each for any item not listed on the agenda, or for up to three minutes for any item listed on the agenda. To request to speak during public comment or on any item on the agenda, please complete this form: <https://sccoe.link/PublicComment>

To submit a comment to be read aloud on your behalf either listed or not listed on the meeting agenda, please send a comment no longer than 300 words to vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org no later than 4:00 PM on October 16th. Each individual may only make one comment per topic.

Cualquier persona que desee hacer un comentario público tendrá la oportunidad de hacerlo en vivo o por videoconferencia durante la reunión virtual hasta tres minutos cada uno para cualquier tema que no esté incluido en la agenda, y hasta tres minutos para cualquier tema incluido en la agenda. Para solicitar hablar durante los comentarios públicos o sobre cualquier tema de la agenda, complete este formulario: <https://sccoe.link/PublicComment>

Para enviar un comentario para ser leído en voz alta en su nombre, ya sea para un tema en la agenda o no en la agenda, envíe un comentario de no más de 300 palabras a vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org a más tardar a las 4:00 PM del 16 de octubre. Cada individuo solo puede hacer un comentario por tema.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Abel Sanchez (President), Ed Acosta, Stacey Kyle, Greg Larson, Sue Roth, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams (Vice President)

Vicente Guillén Martinez (Student Trustee), Ash Immoor (Student Trustee)

Faris Sabbah (Secretary)

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval

Per AB 2449, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following conditions:

- Just Cause, or Emergency Circumstances
- Board Approval

Motion &

Voice Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda deletions and/or sequence changes will be approved or the agenda will be approved as submitted.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is an opportunity for the public to address the Board regarding items outside the agenda. The Board President will recognize any member of the audience not previously placed on the agenda who wishes to speak on a matter directly related to school business. Each speaker, on any specific topic, may speak for up to **three (3) minutes** unless otherwise limited or extended by the President. The President may allot time to those wishing to speak but no action will be taken on matters presented (EDC § 35145.5). If appropriate, the President, or any Member of the Board, may direct that a matter be referred to the Superintendent's Office for placement on a future agenda. Please refer to item, *Please Note*, on the last item of this agenda.

5. CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN

A ceremonial swearing-in will be held for Dr. Stacey Kyle, Trustee, Area 4, who took the official oath of office on Sept. 18, 2025.

6. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student trustees will report on matters, events, and activities related to advocating for students, maintaining community relations, and promoting student achievement.

7. BOARD ORGANIZATION

7.1 Appointments to Standing Committees

7.1.1 Agenda Committee

7.2 Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees

- 7.2.1 Budget Committee
- 7.2.2 Policy Committee
- 7.2.3 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee
- 7.2.4 Other committee(s) as determined

8. CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are recommended actions that are considered to be routine and will be acted upon as one motion. Specific items may be removed for separate consideration. Item(s) removed will be considered immediately following the consent agenda motion as Deferred Consent Items.

8.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 18, 2025

8.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

This item is placed on the agenda to address any items that might be pulled from Agenda Item 8.0 for further discussion/consideration if so determined.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Official correspondence received by the Board, if any, is included herein. Copies of correspondence received within 72 hours of the meeting will be made available at the meeting location.

10. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

10.1 Announcement of Personnel Commission Board-Appointed Vacancy

In accordance with the rules and regulations governing the Personnel Commission, the Santa Cruz County Board of Trustees is responsible for appointing one commissioner to serve a three-year term. A vacancy occurred following the passing of Commissioner Lawrence Lane in September 2025. The unexpired term runs through December 2026.

Recruitment to fill the vacancy was opened, and one candidate submitted an application, Murry Schekman. Pursuant to legal requirements, the Board must hold a public hearing no sooner than 30 days and no later than 45 days following this announcement of its intended appointee. After the public hearing, the Board may proceed with the appointment to fill the unexpired term.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Troy Cope, Chief Human Resources Officer

10.2 Presentation on COE's Role in Advancing AI Education and Integration in Schools and Districts

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is actively supporting schools and districts in the exploration and implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. This presentation will include an overview of current and planned initiatives such as educator training, guidance on ethical and effective use of AI tools, curriculum support for AI literacy, and collaboration with district leaders to promote equitable and informed integration. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring AI is used to enhance teaching, learning, and operational efficiency while maintaining a focus on student data privacy and instructional integrity.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Jason Borgen, Chief Technology & Innovations Officer (CTiO)
Stephanie Sumarna, EdTech & Innovation Coach, Tech+ Division

10.3 Presentation on Support Efforts to Ensure Continuity of Encompass Community Services' Head Start Program

Head Start is a federally funded, free early care and education program serving more than 250 low-income children in Santa Cruz County across 15 classrooms, operated locally by nonprofit Encompass Community Services. The program recently faced the immediate risk of closure due to federal annual allocation reductions and loss of previously approved carryover funds. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, working in partnership with the County of Santa Cruz and First 5 Santa Cruz County, has assembled funding to ensure continuity of services through October 31, 2025, while long-term funding solutions are pursued with federal partners.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

11. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION

11.1 Appointment of Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) Board Representative

The Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) invites each governing board to appoint an ACCBE Board Representative. The purpose of this role is to strengthen the connection between ACCBE and the governing board, ensuring a consistent two-way flow of communication and engagement.

Presenter(s): Abel Sanchez (President)

Motion &

Voice Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

11.2 Resolution #25-40: Gann Amendment Appropriations Limit

The Gann Amendment (Proposition 4, 1979) limits the growth in appropriations made by the State of California, school districts, and local governments. All local education areas are required to adopt Gann Appropriations Limits each year by Board Resolution.

Presenter(s): Melissa Lopez, Director, Fiscal Services, Business Services

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

11.3 Resolution #25-41 Recognizing United Against Hate Week

Hate has no place in society, and least of all on our school campuses. Alongside our school districts, the Santa Cruz COE and County Board of Education rejects hatred, racism, prejudice, violence, and bullying in all forms. We are committed to ensuring our schools are safe and welcoming spaces for learners of all identities. We are encouraging recognition of United Against Hate Week at all schools within our community from Sunday, October 19, 2025, through Saturday, October 25, 2025.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

11.4 Resolution #25-42 Recognizing November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

In 2007, Congress established November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month to raise awareness about youth homelessness, its causes, and potential solutions. This month is a time to recognize efforts addressing youth homelessness and strengthen the commitment to ending it in the United States. The California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC) and the California Department of Education (CDE) support this initiative and emphasize the role of education in preventing and ending youth homelessness. The Board will consider adopting this Resolution.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

11.5 Resolution #25-43 Recognizing National Native American Heritage Month

In the US, November 1 through November 30 is recognized as National Native American Heritage Month. National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

11.6 Resolution #25-44 Recognizing School Psychology Week

The Board will consider adoption of Resolution #25-44 recognizing November 3–7, 2025 as National School Psychology Week. This resolution highlights the essential contributions of school psychologists in supporting student academic achievement, social-emotional development, and mental health. It emphasizes their leadership in data-informed problem solving, prevention and early intervention within Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and their role in promoting safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environments. The resolution further encourages schools, departments, and community partners to celebrate and acknowledge the expertise and dedication of school psychologists throughout Santa Cruz County.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

11.7 Resolution #25-45 Recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

The Board will consider adoption of Resolution #25-45 recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day on November 14, 2025. The resolution honors Ruby Bridges' historic role in advancing educational equity and acknowledges the Countywide Black Student Union and community partners for promoting inclusion through local events and student engagement activities.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

County Superintendent Dr. Faris Sabbah will provide an update on activities and matters of interest.

13. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustees will report on matters, events, and activities related to the Board's goals of advocating for students, maintaining community relations, and promoting student achievement.

14. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

15. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

All meetings scheduled and approved by the Board are listed below. Specific meetings may be removed or added if so determined, pending board approval.

November 20, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

December 18, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

President Sanchez will adjourn the meeting.



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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 7

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

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Action

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Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Abel Sanchez, Board President

SUBJECT: Board Organization

BACKGROUND

By board president appointment, trustees and student trustees are able to join board committees. A minimum of two Trustees are required per committee, with a maximum of three. Student Trustees are able to join any of the committees without affecting quorum.

A description of the committees is included herein.



Board Committee Descriptions

A minimum of two Trustees are required per committee, with a maximum of three. Student Trustees are able to join any of the committees without affecting quorum.

Agenda Committee

The Agenda Committee is responsible for developing the Board agenda with assistance from staff. This committee meets monthly and reviews the proposed agenda items. The Board President and Vice President are members of this committee.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee focuses on overseeing and advising on matters related to the COE's financial planning and budgeting. The primary purpose of this committee is to ensure that the COE's budget aligns with our educational priorities and meets legal and fiscal requirements.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee focuses on the development, review, and revision of educational policies. The primary purpose of this committee is to ensure that the COE's policies align with education code, reflect the values and priorities of the community, and support the overall educational goals. The policy committee is also responsible for developing and reviewing the Board bylaws.

Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

The Community Outreach and Legislation Committee focuses on engaging with the community and advocating for educational interests at the legislative level. This committee is responsible for developing and reviewing Board resolutions.

Superintendent Compensation Review Committee

This committee works in collaboration with the Human Resources Department to conduct a comparative study of the superintendent's compensation. The committee reviews compensation data, benchmarks, and best practices to ensure that superintendent compensation is fair, competitive, and aligned with COE goals and standards.

Student Trustee Engagement Committee

This committee brings together Trustees and Student Trustees to foster collaboration and leadership development. Supported by the Student Leadership and Engagement Coordinator, Trustees serve as

mentors, guiding Student Trustees through their term, helping them navigate board processes, and supporting their projects and initiatives.



2025 Board Committees

I. President:

- A. Abel Sanchez

II. Vice President:

- A. Edward Estrada
B. Rachel Williams appointed after Edward's Resignation *(Updated: August 21, 2025)*

III. Regular Meeting Time:

- A. Third Thursday of Each Month at 5:30 p.m.

IV. Standing Committees:

A. Agenda Committee

1. Sanchez, Estrada
2. Sanchez, Williams *(Updated: August 21, 2025)*

V. Ad Hoc Committees:

A. Budget Committee

1. Larson, Roth, Estrada

B. Policy Committee

1. Van Allen, Williams

C. Charter Schools Committee

1. Roth, Sanchez, Williams

D. Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

1. Larson, Van Allen

E. Board Vacancy & Student Trustee Position Review Committee

1. Larson, Van Allen *(Updated: August 21, 2025)*

F. Superintendent Compensation Review Committee

1. Roth, Williams *(Updated: August 21, 2025)*

VI. Other Appointments:

A. Chairperson, County Committee on School District Organization

1. Roth

B. Santa Cruz County School Boards Association (SCZCSBA)

1. Estrada, (alternate: Roth)
2. Larson, (alternate: Roth) *(Updated: August 21, 2025)*



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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 8.0.1

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

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Action

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Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Administration Department

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 18, 2025

BACKGROUND

Minutes from the regular board meeting held on September 18, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve of the minutes.



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Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025
5:30 p.m.

The meeting was held at: Boardroom, Santa Cruz County Office of Education
400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

President Sanchez participated in the meeting via teleconference from the following location, which was open to the public: 20064 Lower Skyridge Drive, Groveland, CA 95321

The public was also able to join the live video-conference.

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Vice President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and chaired the meeting.

Trustees Present (At Time of Roll Call):

Abel Sanchez (President), Greg Larson, Sue Roth, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams (Vice President)

Trustee Absent (At Time of Roll Call):

Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Verenise Figueroa, , Denise Guerrero-Sanson, Nick Ibarra, Michelle Kennedy, Melissa Lopez, Rebecca Olker, Andres Ortiz, Liann Reyes, John Rice

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval

Per AB 2449, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following conditions: just cause, or emergency circumstances. No requests were made.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Adopted:

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented (Van Allen/Larson, 5-0-0-1)

Ayes: Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Acosta

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marta Bulaich (Community Member) shared with the Board the Brown Act violations and concerns with the manner in which the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board operates.

Trustee Acosta arrived at the meeting.

5. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

The following student trustees were sworn into the Santa Cruz County Board of Education by Superintendent Sabbah.

Vicente Guillén Martinez (Watsonville High School)
Ash R. Immoor (El Nido)

6. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez:

He shared that he was honored to be chosen as student trustee. He also shared that his focus and passion will be on mental health awareness. He shared that he met with Watsonville High School Principal to discuss some concerns and ideas on mental health support. He also gave a shout out to the special supporters in the audience, such as his mom and elementary school teacher Maria Isabel Leblanc.

Student Trustee Immoor:

He shared that he was honored to be selected. He also shared that his focus will be on putting students first. He shared his ideas on creating a website for student advocacy and promoting students' education journey through equity. He has a passion for protecting diversity in literature and history and supporting mental health. He gave a special shout out to Superintendent Sabbah and Andres Ortiz, student leadership and engagement coordinator.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 6:

Maria Isabel Leblanc (Educator) shared her appreciation for Vicente as his elementary school teacher and highlighted his kindness, compassion, and leadership.

Jasmine Najera (Community Member) shared her appreciation for Vicent's leadership and highlighted the COE for supporting local youth.

7. BOARD ORGANIZATION

President Sanchez appointed Trustees and Student Trustees to the following committees.

7.1 Appointments to Standing Committees

7.1.1 Agenda Committee

7.2 Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees

7.2.1 Budget Committee

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez was appointed to the Budget Committee.

7.2.2 Policy Committee

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor were appointed to the Policy Committee.

7.2.3 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor were appointed to the Community Outreach and Legislative Committee.

7.2.4 Other committee(s) as determined

7.2.4.1 Superintendent Compensation Review Committee

7.2.4.2 Student Trustee Engagement Committee

Trustee Larson, Trustee Van Allen, and President Sanchez, along with Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor, were appointed to the Student Trustee Engagement Committee.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 21, 2025

8.0.2 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on August 27, 2025

8.0.3 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on September 4, 2025

8.0.4 Budget Revisions

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Van Allen/Larson, 6-0)

Ayes: Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

8.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

None.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

10. BOARD VACANCY

10.1 Filling Trustee Area 4 Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education

A vacancy exists on the County Board of Education, Trustee Area IV. Per Board Bylaw 9223, the Board may appoint a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the current term. Vice President Williams established the interview process.

10.2 Conduct Interviews of Applicants

The following applicant submitted their written application to the Board and are confirmed residents of trustee area IV: Stacy Kyle. The Board proceeded with interviewing them.

10.3 Resolution #25-35 Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Under the provision of Education Code 5091, the Board is authorized to make a provisional appointment to fill the existing vacancy through to the next regularly scheduled governing board election, November 2026.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-35 Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, naming Stacey Kyle as the provisional appointment (Roth/Van Allen, 6-0)

Ayes:	Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

10.4 Swearing-In Ceremony

Newly appointed trustee Stacey Kyle, was sworn into the Santa Cruz County Board of Education by Superintendent Sabbah.

11. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

11.1 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals Financial Statement

The Board reviewed information from the annual closing financial reporting document filed with the California Department of Education. The report was presented by Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services.

12. PUBLIC HEARING

12.1 Public Hearing: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

According to Education Code Section 60119(1)(A), the Board shall hold a public hearing that provides an opportunity for public input regarding the Sufficiency of Instructional Materials to be used by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Alternative Student Programs during the 2025-2026 school year.

Vice President Williams opened, conducted, and closed the public hearing. John Rice, Executive Director, Alternative Education, presented the materials.

13. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

13.1 Resolution #25-36: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

To be eligible to receive instructional materials funding, the governing board is required to hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution stating whether or not each pupil in the Santa Cruz County Office of Education programs has sufficient standards-aligned textbooks and/or instructional materials in specified subjects under Education Code Section 60605 et. seq.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-36: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials as presented (Larson/Roth, 7-0)

Ayes:	Acosta, Kyle, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

13.2 Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools, Annual Report

Proposition 28, known as the Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, was approved by California voters on November 8, 2022. This initiative aims to provide consistent annual funding for arts education in K-12 public schools, including charter schools, by allocating an amount equal to 1% of the total state and local revenues received under Proposition 98 from the previous fiscal year. Under this proposition, schools are required to submit annual board-approved reports detailing how funds were spent.

Denise Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director, Student Program, presented the report.

A motion was made to approve the Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools, Annual Report, for Career Advancement Charter, as presented (Van Allen/Guillén Martinez, 7-0)

Ayes:	Acosta, Kyle, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

13.3 Resolution #25-37 Honoring the Life and Service of Lawrence “Larry” Lane

The Board considered a resolution recognizing the late Lawrence “Larry” Lane for his decades of dedicated service to education and public service. Larry served over 30 years with Pajaro Valley Unified School District in roles including teacher, department chair, principal, and interim assistant superintendent, earning multiple awards such as Teacher of the Year and the Distinguished Teacher Award from the California Council of Geographic Education.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-37 Honoring the Life and Service of Lawrence “Larry” Lane (Larson/Van Allen, 7-0)

Ayes:	Acosta, Kyle, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

13.4 Resolution #25-38 Recognizing October 12–18, 2025 Week of the School Administrator

The term "school administrator" encompasses various education leadership roles, including superintendents, principals, curriculum leaders, and more. With over 6 million students in California, the future of public education relies on strong leadership. The Board was asked to recognize these administrators.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-38 Recognizing October 12–18, 2025 Week of the School Administrator (Larson/Van Allen, 7-0)

Ayes:	Acosta, Kyle, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

13.5 Resolution #25-39 Recognizing October as LGBTQIA2S+ History Month

LGBTQIA2S+ History Month is an annual, month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements, which was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher, Rodney Wilson. All students deserve to feel safe and welcome in their schools and to see themselves represented in the curriculum.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-38 Recognizing October 12–18, 2025 Week of the School Administrator (Immoor/Van Allen, 7-0)

Ayes:	Acosta, Kyle, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

County Superintendent Dr. Faris Sabbah provided an update on activities and matters of interest.

15. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

President Sanchez:

He visited the West Beach Street school site, participated in the student interviews and attended the Administrators kick-off.

Vice President Williams:

She visited the West Beach Street school site and attended the County Board Conference in Monterey.

Trustee Van Allen:

He was keeping up with information and updates from the County Board Conference.

Trustee Acosta:

No report to share.

Trustee Kyle:

She attended student games at Harbor High and Shoreline Middle School. She also attended a fundraising gala for the Watsonville Community Hospital.

Trustee Larson:

His report is included in the meeting packet. He highlighted in the meeting the Labor Day Community March and Celebration.

Trustee Roth:

She attended the following meetings and events:

- September 2 Tour of SCCOE Beach Street Facility, Watsonville
- September 4 SCCOE Special Board Meeting (Student Trustee Interviews)
- September 11 SCCOE Admin Kickoff 2025 (Christopher Emdin, Speaker)

16. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

Trustee Van Allen shared that the policy committee plans to bring policies to the next meeting.

17. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

All meetings scheduled and approved by the Board are listed below. Specific meetings may be removed or added if so determined, pending board approval.

October 16, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

November 20, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

December 18, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 9

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

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Action

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Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Administration Department

SUBJECT: Correspondence

BACKGROUND

Correspondence sent to the Board is included herein.



Verenise Valentin <vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org>

Fwd: Please read- ACCBE Update to share with your boards

1 message

Verenise Valentin <vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org>

Wed, Oct 1, 2025 at 2:31 PM

Cc: Faris Sabbah <fsabbah@santacruzcoe.org>

Bcc: Abel Sanchez <asanchez@santacruzcoe.org>, Sue Roth <sroth@santacruzcoe.org>, Stacey Kyle <staceyjkyle@gmail.com>, Greg Larson <glarson@santacruzcoe.org>, Ed Acosta <eacosta@santacruzcoe.org>, Bruce Van Allen <bvanallen@santacruzcoe.org>, Rachel Williams <rwilliams@santacruzcoe.org>

Hello Trustees,

Please see the updates below from ACCBE.

From: Bina Lefkovitz, ACCBE Chair**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:25 PM**Re:** Please read- ACCBE Update to share with your boards

So many good things are going on- we hope you will broadcast to your board so we can have all trustees share in the goodness!

Oct 4th 10-11:30am student board rep networking/learning event- 16 county boards have student board reps! We are trying to get as many of them to send their student board reps to this session. So far Santa Clara, Fresno, Napa, Stanislaus, LACOE, Sacramento, Santa Cruz have responded. If you have a student board rep please encourage them to register and attend our virtual networking event this sat 10-11:30. **Adult allies are invited as well, plus trustees or staff from board who do not yet have a student board rep and are curious.** There will be a breakout rooms for adults and one for students- after a short panel of students speaking.

Deep Dive on Court and Comm schools to learn about the schools that we are school board of record for and to develop an advocacy agenda around court and community schools

- **Oct 9th 6-8pm** Deep dive on Court and Community Schools- statewide overview of key stakeholders, statutes, locations, data, challenges and solutions. Speakers from JCCASAC, State Probation offices Assoc, and CDE
- **Oct 30th** Spotligniting four exemplary COE's who are doing exceptional work to support student success: San Deigo, Monterey, Imperial, TBD(Colusa, Tehama or Shasta- waiting on responses) and Office of Youth and Community Restoration
- **Nov 17th** student and advocates panel

Nov 13th 12-1 Brown Act

Dec 15th 6pm Charters- appeals and renewals

Trustee handbook has been updated with ACCBE logo's and is now posted on our resource page-Please encourage your new members to check this out. Please walk through the handbook with your new members and encourage all to review it as a resource.



High school Redesign grant due Oct 17th - we are seeking to get COE's to apply for the HS redesign grant to include their Court and Community Schools. Please let us know if your COE will apply. We want to write letters of support and also be a partner to be able to educate trustees statewide and other elected officials about the innovations, to help scale those innovations and to advocate for changes needed to sustain those innovations.



Please send your top ideas for learning topics for 2026- we are already planning networking/ learning events and want to make sure they are relevant to your board. What governance challenges are you facing? What issues are impacting your schools that could be a focus area for learning? What topics are your board members or staff speaking about that might be of interest to others? Your input will help us narrow down the long list of topics we are considering.



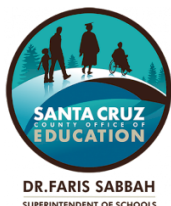
CDE is publishing data on Oct 1st related to our Court and Community Schools having to do with the number of students who leave our schools and return to their home schools and the numbers who disappear and do not return; the level of access to A-G, accredited courses and statewide dashboard data on our students. We will forward the data once it becomes available. We are talking to CDE about hosting a workshop soon on this data and on a statewide evaluation of Court and Community Schools that will be released Nov 1st.

--

My best to you!
Bina Lefkovitz

916 213 9679

--



Verenise Valentín Figueroa, M.A.

Assistant to the County Superintendent

Direct Line (831) 466-5909

Department Line (831) 466-5900

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vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org

400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Pronouns: She/Her/Ella



Verenise Valentin <vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org>

New submission from Trustees Contact Form

1 message

Daniel Dodge Jr <webform@santacruzcoe.org>

Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 5:11 PM

Reply-To: daniel_dodge@pvusd.net

To: coe_board@santacruzcoe.org

Sender name

Daniel Dodge Jr

Sender emaildaniel_dodge@pvusd.net**Recipient**

All Board Members

Message

Dear Honorable President and Members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Education,

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Watsonville High School sports stadium on Friday, October 17.

After many years of planning and millions of dollars approved by the voters of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, this project stands as a testament to our community's commitment to investing in local infrastructure. This effort not only enhances our athletic facilities but also improves the overall campus environment for our students and staff.

As a lifelong resident of Watsonville and a proud Watsonville High School graduate, this event holds special meaning for me. Just recently, my daughter also graduated from Watsonville High and went on to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, continuing our family's tradition of education and community pride.

Watsonville High School is currently led by Principal Joseph Gregorio, a lifelong resident of Watsonville who has worked tirelessly to ensure the school reflects the pride and character of our community. His leadership and dedication have been instrumental in bringing this long-awaited project to life.

Your attendance would mean a great deal to our school community and would demonstrate to our students, families, and residents that their tax dollars are being invested responsibly in projects that strengthen both our schools and our county as a whole.

A flier with the date, time, and location of the ceremony is attached to this email for your convenience. If you are able to attend, we would be honored to invite members of the County Board of Education to share a few words during the program.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support for public education and the youth of Santa Cruz County.

Warm regards,
Daniel Dodge Jr.
Trustee Area 4, Pajaro Valley Unified School District



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 10.1

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

☐

Action

☒

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Troy Cope, Chief Human Resources Officer

SUBJECT: Announcement of Personnel Commission Board-Appointed Vacancy

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the rules and regulations governing the Personnel Commission, the Board of Trustees is responsible for appointing one commissioner to serve a three-year term. A vacancy occurred following the passing of Commissioner Lawrence Lane in September 2025. The unexpired term runs through December 2026.

Recruitment was opened to fill this vacancy, and one candidate applied. In compliance with legal requirements, the Board must hold a public hearing no sooner than 30 days and no later than 45 days after announcing its intended appointee. Following the public hearing in November, the Board may proceed with the appointment.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board review the candidate of Murry Schekman and consider him as the Board-appointed Personnel Commissioner for the term beginning November 2025 and ending December 2026.

Murry Schekman

| Cell:
Email:

Resume

Education and Credentials

1983: M.A. Administration Education and Administrative Services Credential, San Jose State University

1980: Pupil Personnel Credential, San Jose State University

1978: Certificate of Competence: Bilingual/Bicultural- Spanish

1975: B.A. Sociology and Single Subject Teaching Credential, University of California at Santa Cruz

Work Experience

Teaching

San Jose State University College of Education

2004 - 2023

Taught courses in the Counselor Education and Educational Leadership Departments. Taught part time since 2004 and began teaching full-time during the 2015-16 school year. Also supervised Counselor Interns.

School Administration

Superintendent of Schools (ADA 15,000)

July 17, 2023-April 30, 2024

Oversaw all aspects of instruction and operations for the entire district, including a \$371 million dollar budget. Managed two positive interim reports, applied for a plethora of grants, including 25 Community School grants, provided workshops/PD for all admin and worked to bring the board an improved focus on student learning.

Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education (ADA: 20,000)

July 2010 – June 2015

Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville, CA

Oversee all aspects of instruction and operations at the district's three comprehensive high schools, five middle schools, junior high school, alternative education schools, adult education, and charter schools, including a K-16 and one K-8 school. Lead the district in closing the achievement gap district wide. Played a critical role to pass Measure L, the largest general obligation bond in the history of Santa Cruz County. Implemented the use of benchmarks and data teams at secondary schools. Improved and maintained consistent communication at district level.

Principal (Enrollment: 2,150)

2006 - 2010

Watsonville High School, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville, CA

Led all aspects of instruction and operations of a comprehensive high school, including hiring; monitoring and evaluation of staff; interpretation and enforcement of district, state and federal laws; and development of board policy and administrative regulations. Implemented major reforms to improve all levels of student achievement with a keen focus on English learners.

Principal (Enrollment: 650) 2005 - 2006
North Monterey County Middle School, North Monterey County USD, Castroville, CA
Opened a new middle school in August 2005. Built programs from the ground up, including all aspects of curriculum and instruction; hiring, monitoring and evaluation of staff; interpretation and enforcement of district, state and federal laws; development of board policy and administrative regulations. Established a culture of academic families and small learning communities on the school site.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Principal (Enrollment: 18,500) 2001 - 2005
Mt. Toro Continuation High School, Salinas Union High School District, Salinas, CA
Led and coordinated counseling programs and services, district alternative education programs/continuation school, community day school, opportunity programs and independent study programs, expulsion procedures, inter and intra district transfers, and dropout prevention. Built partnerships with Monterey County Probation, Salinas Police Department, Monterey County Office of Education, and a variety of public and non-profit agencies to provide effective programs and services for students.

Principal, Everett Alvarez High School (Enrollment: 2,100) 1994 - 2001 Salinas Union High School District, Salinas, CA
Opened new high school in 1995. Responsible for all aspects of curriculum and instruction; hiring, monitoring and evaluation of all staff; interpretation and enforcement of district, state and federal laws; development of board policy and administrative regulations; school facility, staff and programs, and future growth planning. Built educational community from scratch, including coalescing stakeholders - students, staff, parents and community.

Principal, E.A. Hall Middle School (Enrollment: 1,200) 1990 - 1994
Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville, CA

Principal, Bayside Middle School (Enrollment: 800) 1986 - 1990
San Mateo City School District, San Mateo, CA

Assistant Principal, Watsonville High School (Enrollment: 2,400) 1984 - 1986
Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville, CA

Assistant Principal, E.A. Hall Middle School (Enrollment: 700) 1981 - 1984
Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville, CA

Counseling

Migrant Education Counselor and Bilingual Program Coordinator (Enrollment: 1,400) 1978 - 1981
North Monterey County High School, North Monterey County Unified School District, Castroville, CA

Prior Teaching

Marelo Preparatory High School (Enrollment: 250)

1976 - 1978

Taught U.S. History, American Government, Spanish, Yearbook, Career Education, and Geometry classes.

Watsonville High School (Enrollment: 2,400)

1974 - 1975

Pájaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville, CA

Taught Bilingual Introduction to Algebra and Consumer Mathematics.

Related Experiences

Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Trained Chairperson of WASC Visitation Committees, Recently Chaired Visitation Committees Burlingame High School, Soquel High School in Soquel, Ca. and Del Rio High School in Atascadero, Ca. Served with WASC 1985 to Present. Assigned to Chair WASC review in spring of 2017 at Santa Teresa HS in San Jose. Most recent – Sunnyside HS in Fresno Unified March 2022

California League of High Schools State Board Representative for Region V

1996 - 2002

Represent Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Clara counties and responsible for statewide staff development, planning and implementation, as well as recognition of CLHSS Educators of the Year.

Published

“It’s All About Leadership in Schools....what works and some of what doesn’t!” (NYC Publishing), December 2024

International Organization of Social Sciences and Behavioral Research: *Published and Presented Paper at Conference, “Intersecting Themes for School Based Counselors – Mental Health **AND** Academic Equity - Cultivating Partnerships in the Community”, August 2019*

National High School Association

(Volume 4 No. 1 Spring/Summer 2002) Voices from the Field, “Leadership – A Simple Formula”

California League of High Schools

(Volume 2 No. 2 November/December 2001) The High School Educator, “Leadership on Behalf of Student Achievement”

References

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Director, LEAD
Professor Emeritus, Educational Leadership, San Jose State University
Retired High School Principal
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Jason Laker Ph.D.
Counselor Education Department Chairperson
San Jose State College
One Washington Square, [Sweeney Hall 404](#)
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SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBABH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Mr. Ed Acosta
Dr. Stacey Kyle
Mr. Greg Larson
Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez
Mr. Bruce Van Allen
Ms. Rachel Williams

400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 ♦ Tel (831) 466-5600 ♦ Fax (831) 466-5607 ♦ www.santacruzcoe.org

Santa Cruz County Office of Education – Personnel Commission

Purpose and Legal Foundation:

The Personnel Commission (PC) operates under California Education Code Sections 45100–45460, which establish a merit system for classified employees in public education. Specifically, Education Code Section 45260 authorizes the Commission to “prescribe, amend, and interpret rules as necessary to ensure the efficiency of the service and the selection and retention of employees upon a basis of merit and fitness.”

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE) Personnel Commission ensures that hiring, promotion, and employment practices for classified staff are conducted in a fair, open, and merit-based manner, independent of influence.

Core Responsibilities

The Personnel Commission is responsible for:

- Establishing and maintaining classification plans for all classified positions.
- Recruiting, testing, and certifying qualified candidates through examinations and eligibility lists.
- Ensuring equity and compliance in hiring, compensation, and employment practices.
- Interpreting and applying Merit System Rules to uphold transparency and accountability in personnel actions.

These functions are carried out collaboratively with COE Human Resources, ensuring legal compliance, operational efficiency, and fairness for all classified employees.

Why the Personnel Commission Exists

Historically, Personnel Commissions were created to replace “spoils” or “patronage” systems in which employment decisions were based on political favoritism. The Merit System instead guarantees:

- Equal opportunity for applicants.
- Selection based solely on ability, knowledge, and skills.
- Protection against arbitrary employment actions.
- Consistent and objective personnel practices that serve the *public trust*.

Composition and Meetings

The COE Personnel Commission is a three-member body—one appointed by the Board of Education, one by the classified employees, and a third selected jointly by the other two commissioners.

Meetings are held monthly, on the third Tuesday, at 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. These meetings are open to the public and subject to Brown Act regulation.

Benefits of the Merit System

For managers and departments, the Personnel Commission provides:

- Clearly defined job classifications aligned with organizational needs.
- Qualified candidate pools screened through objective assessments.
- Standardized and defensible hiring and pay practices.
- Expert HR guidance that ensures compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

By maintaining these standards, the Personnel Commission helps the COE uphold its mission to provide efficient, equitable, and high-quality educational services to the community.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 10.2

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

☐

Action

☒

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Jason Borgen, Chief Technology & Innovations Officer (CTIO)
Stephanie Sumarna, EdTech & Innovation Coach, Tech+ Division

SUBJECT: COE's Role in Advancing AI Education and Integration in Schools and Districts

BACKGROUND

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is actively supporting schools and districts in the exploration and implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. This presentation will include an overview of current and planned initiatives such as educator training, guidance on ethical and effective use of AI tools, curriculum support for AI literacy, and collaboration with district leaders to promote equitable and informed integration. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring AI is used to enhance teaching, learning, and operational efficiency while maintaining a focus on student data privacy and instructional integrity.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation.

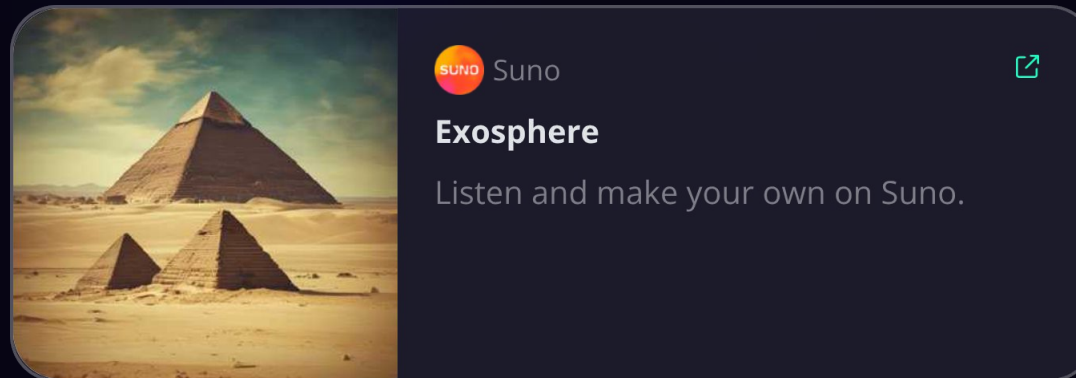


DR. FARIS SABBABH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Leading the Way: AI Integration in Education

October 16, 2025

Santa Cruz County Office of Education | Board Presentation



Song made by Ihan, YETI participant

Flow

**Leading the Way: A
Snapshot of our AI Journey**

**Current AI in Education
Landscape**

**Building Guidelines &
Providing Support**

Future of AI in Education



Santa Cruz COE: Leading the Way



DR. FARIS SABBAAH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

This presentation was made with the support of AI.

Our County is Leading with Purpose



By the Numbers: Leading the AI Learning Revolution

From classrooms to boardrooms, our AI integration journey is creating measurable impact across Santa Cruz County.

600+

Educators Trained

Teachers empowered through AI Think Tanks, Reboot 2024, and specialized programs

4

Organizational Guidelines Developed

Through partnerships with PVUSD, SVUSD, SLVUSD and our own organization.

58

COE Staff Leaders

Cross-departmental AI adoption throughout 10+ administrative teams

37

Student Innovators

YETI program participants pioneering AI design thinking solutions

Our countywide initiative spans 10 school districts* including 4 districts with direct student engagement.

*Bonny Doon, Live Oak, Other/Charter/Private, Pacific, Pajaro Valley Unified (PVUSD), San Lorenzo Valley, Santa Cruz City, Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE), Scotts Valley, Soquel



Current AI in Education Landscape



DR. FARIS SABBAAH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

This presentation was made with the support of AI.



The Global AI Shift in Education



Rapid Growth

Exponential adoption of AI tools in classrooms worldwide.



Opportunities

Enhanced personalization, improved efficiency, and unprecedented



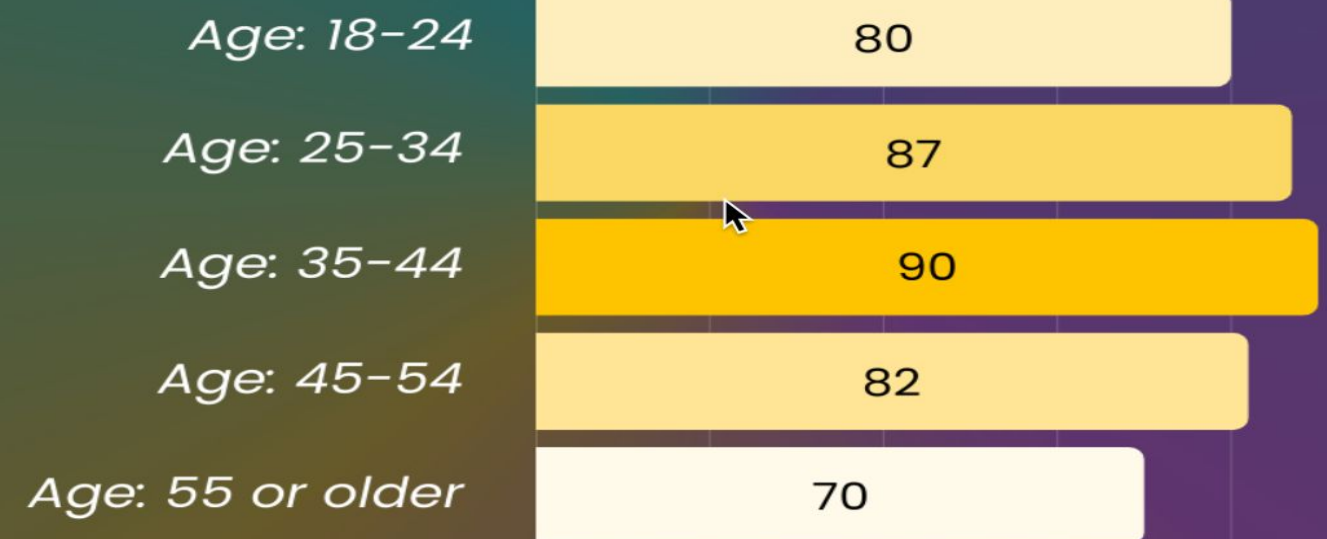
Challenges

Addressing bias concerns, bridging equity gaps, and ensuring digital literacy.

80.5 % of employees say they are comfortable using generative AI at work.

McKinsey

% of Employees Who Feel Comfortable With Generative AI by Age





Seven in 10 teens age 13 to 18 say they have used at least one type of generative AI tool.

[Read the full report.](#)

About 6 in 10 teens report either that their school has no rules for how generative AI can be used or that they're not sure if there are rules.

Most teens report that teachers do NOT allow generative AI
Percent of teens who indicate that their teachers have discussed use of gen AI in the following ways

Mostly do not allow students to use gen AI



Teachers have not mentioned gen AI



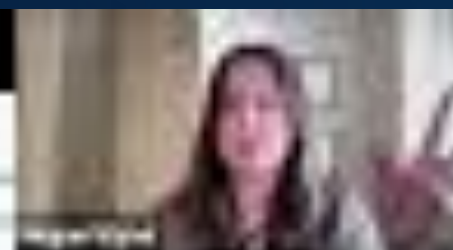
Mostly allow students to use gen AI



Not sure



Role ⁶	Description	Example of Implementation
Possibility engine	AI generates alternative ways of expressing an idea	Students write queries in ChatGPT and use the Regenerate response function to examine alternative responses.
Socratic opponent	AI acts as an opponent to develop and argument	Students enter prompts into ChatGPT following the structure of a conversation or debate. Teachers can ask students to use ChatGPT to prepare for discussions.
Collaboration coach	AI helps groups to research and solve problems together	Working in groups, students use ChatGPT to find out information to complete tasks and assignments.
Guide on the side	AI acts as a guide to navigate physical and conceptual spaces	Teachers use ChatGPT to generate content for classes/courses (e.g., discussion questions) and advice on how to support students in learning specific concepts.
Personal tutor	AI tutors each student and gives immediate feedback on progress	ChatGPT provides personalized feedback to students based on information provided by students or teachers (e.g., test scores).
Co-designer	AI assists throughout the design process	Teachers ask ChatGPT for ideas about designing or updating a curriculum (e.g., rubrics for assessment) and/or focus on specific goals (e.g., how to make the curriculum more accessible).
Exploratorium	AI provides tools to play with, explore and interpret data	Teachers provide basic information to students who write different queries in ChatGPT to find out more. ChatGPT can be used to support language learning.
Study buddy	AI helps the student reflect on learning material	Students explain their current level of understanding to ChatGPT and ask for ways to help them study the material. ChatGPT could also be used to help students prepare for other tasks (e.g., job interviews).
Motivator	AI offers games and challenges to extend learning	Teachers or students ask ChatGPT for ideas about how to extend students' learning after providing a summary of the current level of knowledge (e.g., quizzes, exercises).
Dynamic assessor	AI provides educators with a profile of each student's current knowledge	Students interact with ChatGPT in a tutorial-type dialogue and then ask ChatGPT to produce a summary of their current state of knowledge to share with their teacher/for assessment.



CAASPP-Style Questions



Any Text

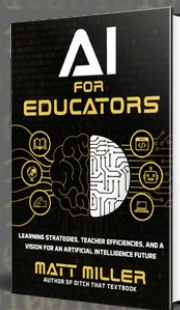
Brisk will generate questions about any text you give it and ask questions aligned to standards you identify.



Track Growth

I used the standard tracking feature on my LMS to track student growth over time as they answered more and more questions on different texts on the same skills.

CLASSROOM AI USE: WHAT'S CHEATING? WHAT'S OK?



Questions to ask:

What's OK? What's not? For whom?

For what work? Under what circumstances?

What work best prepares students for THEIR future?

Where do you draw the line for your students?

At what point is it student's work and no longer AI?

AI does student work for them with no thought by the student

AI writes content but student edits it based on learning from class

Student re-writes AI-generated content with own improvement ideas

AI generates multiple drafts; student chooses best parts of AI drafts

Student writes bullet points to include but AI writes the draft

AI guides student through writing process as a "writing coach"

Student creates content until stuck; asks AI for help to get "unstuck"

Student writes a draft; AI writes a draft; student adds best AI ideas

Student gathers stats/research via AI but creates all content on own

Student consults internet/AI for writing ideas but creates content on own

Student writes all content but asks AI for feedback to improve

Student does all work without any assistance from AI, the internet, etc.

More AI
Creation

More Human
Work

Graphic created by Matt Miller of Ditch That Textbook.

For more, visit DitchThatTextbook.com/ai-cheating



**DITCH THAT
TEXTBOOK**

READ MORE

Mitigating AI Use

Design, develop & refine authentic assessments

Authentic assignments challenge AI because it is working off a confined data set.

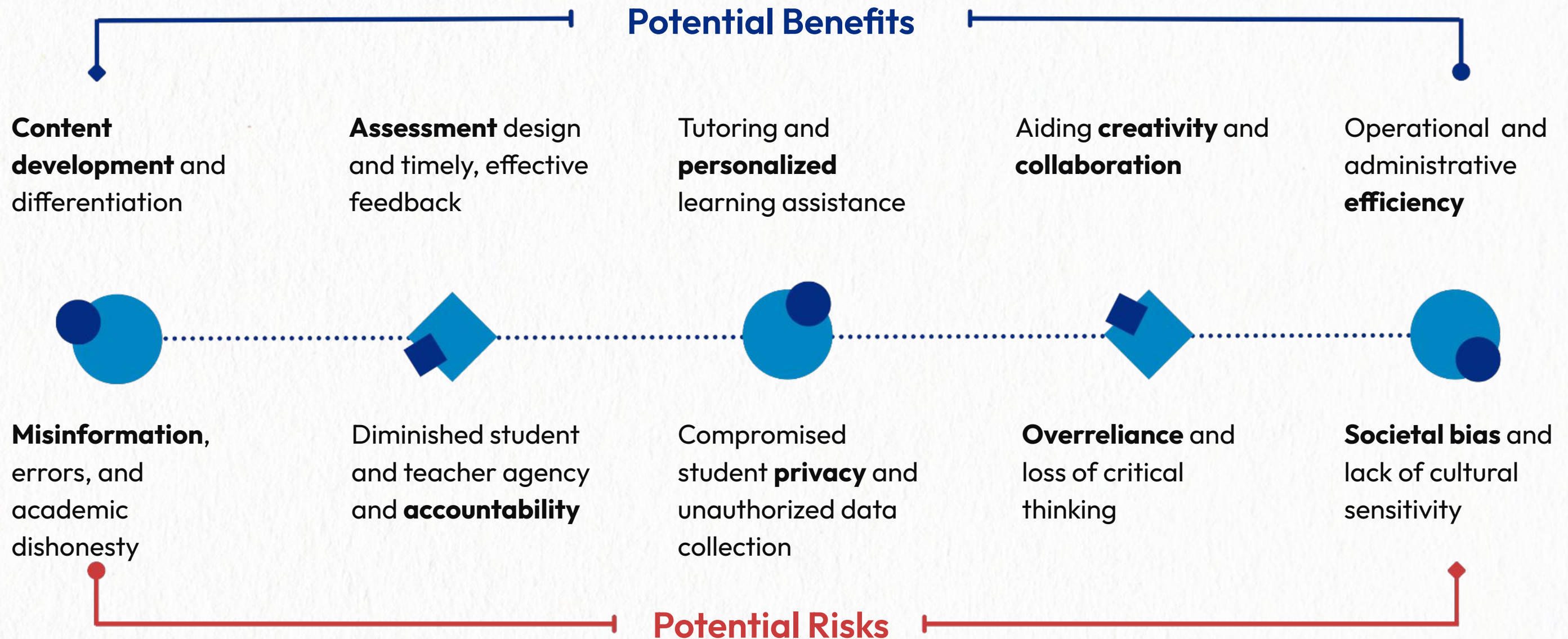
Look at student work in multiple ways

Utilize different types of assessments (ie, portfolios, role playing, case studies) to make it difficult to use AI.

Lower the stakes, lower the cheating

Large assignments can be broken down into small chunk to provide more feedback opportunities for students.

Potential Benefits & Risks of Using AI in Education





SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Guidance

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Last updated: Jul 16, 2024

Proactive Guidelines, Local

Comprehensive Framework

Our AI guidance establishes clear, actionable standards for implementation across districts.

Ethical Foundation

We prioritize equity, ethics, and innovation in all AI educational applications.

Regional Impact

Multiple districts have adopted our model, creating consistent standards countywide.



Building Guidelines & Providing Support



DR. FARIS SABBAAH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

This presentation was made with the support of AI.

AI Learning Across the Ecosystem





District & System Support



AI Explorers & Book Study

Comprehensive professional development for district leaders.



District Partnerships

PVUSD, Scotts Valley, and Bayview professional development initiatives.



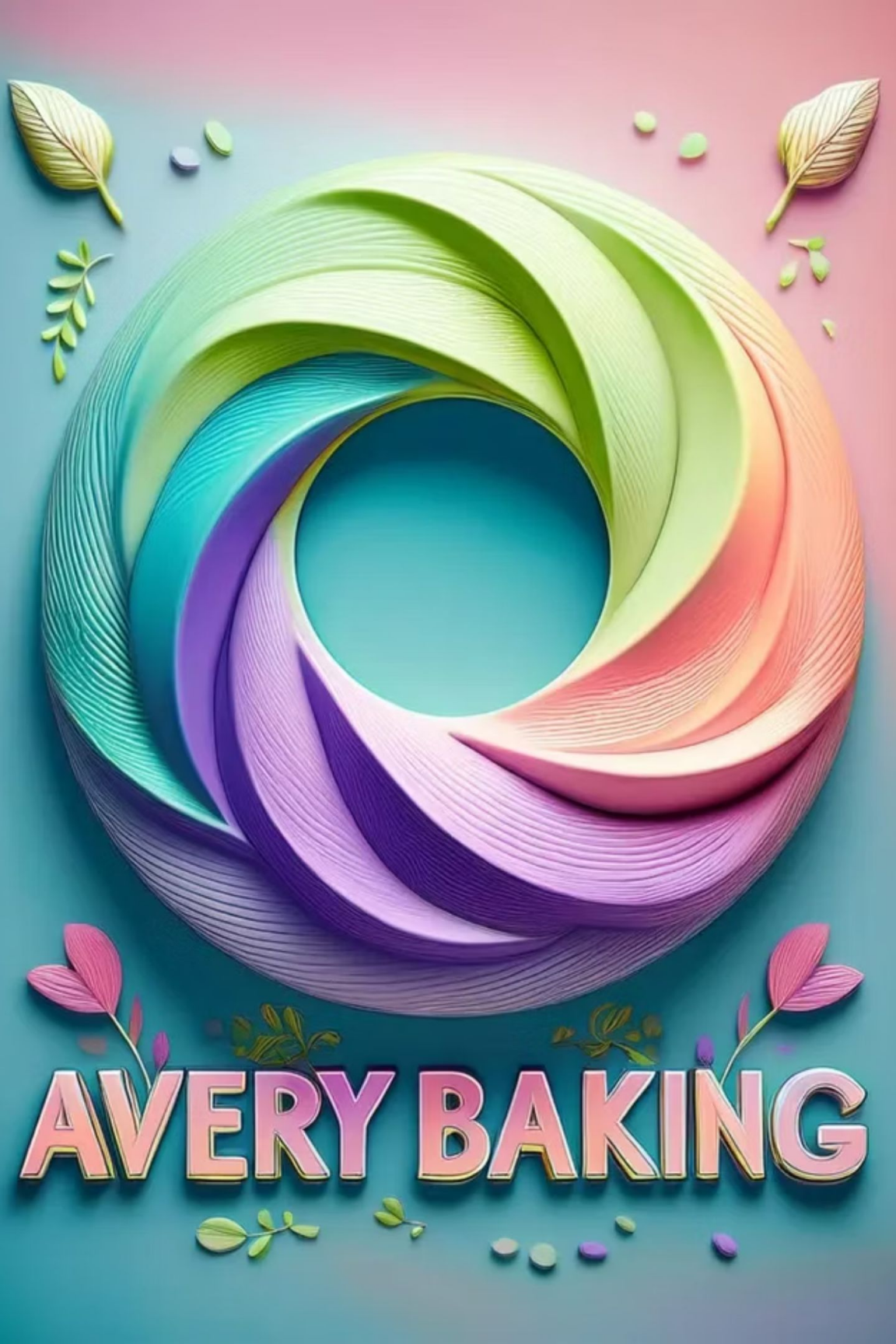
AI Think Tank

Collaborative innovation hub for educational AI applications.



Back to School Reboot: Unlocking Potential with AI

Professional learning hosted in partnership with Monterey Bay CUE.



Internal COE Capacity



Wild West of AI

Internal professional learning series designed to inform COE staff.

Students, Families & Community

YETI Program

Part of YLLA, Youth Empowerment Through Technology and Innovation has spent the year exploring uses for generative AI with students in middle and high school.

(See logo at left, designed by Avery using Adobe Express)

AI Literacy Day + Resource Hub

A collection of resources for students, families & educators to promote AI literacy.



Our Voice in State & National Conversations



Stanford AI+Education Summit

Featured panelists sharing our county's innovative approach.



Day of Ideas San Francisco

Leading discussions on ethical AI integration in K-12 education.



Clara Pilot

Groundbreaking collaboration with Stanford researchers on AI applications.



The Future of AI in Education



DR. FARIS SABBAAH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

This presentation was made with the support of AI.

Our Next Steps



Support District Policy & Guideline Development

Partner with districts to craft comprehensive AI policies tailored to their district's unique needs.



Student-Centered Implementation

Align AI tools with curriculum to enhance student learning opportunities.



Educator Training Integration

Continue development of training resources to build capacity for our county's teaching teams.



Continue the Conversation

Participate in discussions with local and state leaders in AI, including CDE AI Task Force.



Call to Action



Join Us

Attend the AI
Explorers
Showcase on May
7 from 4:00-6:00
pm



Support

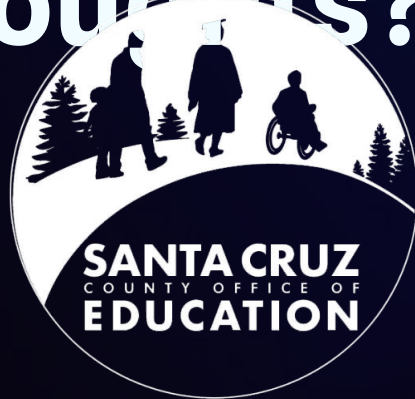
Continue
championing
innovative AI
initiatives in our
schools.



Engage

Participate in
community
discussions about
educational AI.

Questions? Thoughts?



DR. FARIS SABBAAH
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS





SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 10.3

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

☐

Action

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Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Presentation on Support Efforts to Ensure Continuity of Encompass Community Services' Head Start Program

BACKGROUND

Head Start is a federally funded, free early care and education program serving more than 250 low-income children in Santa Cruz County across 15 classrooms, operated locally by nonprofit Encompass Community Services. The program recently faced the immediate risk of closure due to federal annual allocation reductions and loss of previously approved carryover funds. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, working in partnership with the County of Santa Cruz and First 5 Santa Cruz County, has assembled funding to ensure continuity of services through October 31, 2025, while long-term funding solutions are pursued with federal partners.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

Included herein.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 11.1

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

☒

Action



Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Abel Sanchez (President)

SUBJECT: Appointment of Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) Board Representative

BACKGROUND

The ACCBE invites each governing board to appoint an ACCBE Board Representative. The purpose of this role is to strengthen the connection between ACCBE and the governing board, ensuring a consistent two-way flow of communication and engagement.

Role of a Board Representative:

- Provide a brief monthly update during trustee comments on ACCBE news, activities, and opportunities.
- Share how trustees can participate in ACCBE events, committees, or special meetings.
- Serve as a point of contact when ACCBE seeks input or feedback from trustees.

This role is designed to be manageable and flexible. The primary responsibilities involve reading ACCBE communications and attending occasional events (as few or as many as desired). These activities provide enough grounding for the representative to keep the board informed and engaged.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to appoint a board representative.



ACCBE Board Representative Orientation

Monday, Oct 27th, 6:30-7:30pm (Online)

Why Attend the Orientation?

You have been appointed as your county board's ACCBE Board Representative. Thank you for stepping into this important role!

- Get an overview of your role as a Board Representative.
- Learn how to share ACCBE news and opportunities with your board.
- Connect with other Board Reps across California for peer learning and networking.

What is the Role of a Board Representative?

- Give short monthly updates during board comments on ACCBE news.
- Share opportunities for trustees to engage in ACCBE events, committees, and special meetings.
- Serve as a contact when ACCBE seeks feedback from member boards.

Time commitment is light — reading ACCBE communications and attending events (as many or as few as you choose) is enough to represent ACCBE's work effectively.

Orientation Details

- Date: Monday, Oct 27th, 2025
- Time: 6:30-7:30pm
- Format: Online

RSVP Today

Please confirm your attendance by emailing president@accbe.org.

**Together, we are amplifying the voice of County Boards and building Trustee
Excellence.**



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

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 11.2

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

☒

Action



Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Melissa Lopez, Director, Fiscal Services, Business Services

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-40: Gann Amendment Appropriations Limit

BACKGROUND

The Gann Amendment (Proposition 4, 1979) limits the growth in appropriations made by the State of California, school districts, and local governments. All local education areas are required to adopt Gann Appropriations Limits each year by Board Resolution.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

Included herein.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #25-40: Gann Amendment Appropriations Limit



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

Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #25-40
GANN AMENDMENT APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT

WHEREAS, in November 1979, the California electorate adopted Proposition 4, commonly called the Gann Amendment which establishes Article XIII B of the Constitution of the State of California, and

WHEREAS, the provisions of that amendment establish maximum appropriation limitations, commonly called “Gann Limits” for public agencies including school districts and County Offices of Education, and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education must establish a Gann Limit for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and a projected Gann Limit for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of Division 9 (commencing with Section 7900) of Title I of the Government Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing board of the Office of the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools does provide public notice that the attached calculations and documentation of the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Gann Limits are made in accord with applicable constitutional and statutory law and that the board does hereby declare that the appropriations in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years do not exceed the limitations imposed by Article XIII B;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent provided copies of this resolution along with appropriate attachments to interested citizens.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Dr. Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary
Superintendent of Schools

	2024-25 Calculations			2025-26 Calculations		
	Extracted Data	Adjustments*	Entered Data/ Totals	Extracted Data	Adjustments*	Entered Data/ Totals
A. PRIOR YEAR DATA	2023-24 Actual			2024-25 Actual		
Actual Appropriations Limit and Gann ADA are from COE's prior year Gann data reported to the CDE. LCFF data are from the prior year Annual County LCFF Calculation funding exhibit.						
PRIOR YEAR APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT						
1. Program Portion of Prior Year Appropriations Limit (A3 times [A6 divided by (A6 plus A7)], not to exceed A6) Excess is added to Other Services portion.	13,475,143.78		13,475,143.78			13,689,227.31
2. Other Services Portion of Prior Year Appropriations Limit (A3 minus A1)	5,946,502.35		5,946,502.35			6,040,976.16
3. TOTAL PRIOR YEAR APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT (Preload/Line D16, PY column)	19,421,646.13		19,421,646.13			19,730,203.47
PRIOR YEAR GANN ADA						
4. Program ADA (Preload/Line B3, PY column)	881.08		881.08			868.74
5. Other ADA (Preload/Line B4, PY column)	28,874.42		28,874.42			27,942.46
PRIOR YEAR LCFF						
6. LCFF Alternative Education Grant (Preload/Line A28, Alternative Education Grant, prior year Annual County LCFF Calculation)	18,937,343.00		18,937,343.00			18,937,343.00
7. LCFF Operations Grant, (Preload/Line A1, Operations Grant, prior year Annual County LCFF Calculation)	8,356,939.00		8,356,939.00			8,356,939.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIOR YEAR LIMIT AND ADA	Adjustments to 2023-24			Adjustments to 2024-25		
ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIOR YEAR LIMIT						
8. Reorganizations and Other Transfers						
9. Temporary Voter Approved Increases						
10. Less: Lapses of Voter Approved Increases						
11. TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIOR YEAR LIMIT (Lines A8 plus A9 minus A10)			0.00			0.00
12. Adjustments to Program Portion ([Lines A1 divided by A3] times Line A11)	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
13. Adjustments to Other Services Portion (Lines A11 minus A12)			0.00			0.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIOR YEAR ADA						
(Only for reorganizations and other transfers, and only if adjustments to the appropriations limit amounts are entered in Line A8 or A12 above)						
14. Adjustments to Program ADA						
15. Adjustments to Other ADA						

	2024-25 Calculations			2025-26 Calculations		
	Extracted Data	Adjustments*	Entered Data/ Totals	Extracted Data	Adjustments*	Entered Data/ Totals
B. CURRENT YEAR GANN ADA	2024-25 Annual Report			2025-26 Annual Estimate		
CURRENT YEAR PROGRAM ADA						
Unaudited actuals data should tie to Principal Apportionment Data Collection attendance reports and include ADA for charter schools reporting with the COE						
1. Total County Program ADA (Form A, Line B1d)	868.74		868.74	867.14		867.14
2. Total Charter Schools ADA (Form A, Line C2d plus C6d)	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
3. Total Current Year ADA (Lines B1 through B2)	868.74	0.00	868.74	867.14	0.00	867.14
	2024-25 P2 Report			2025-26 P2 Estimate		
CURRENT YEAR DISTRICT ADA						
4. Total District Gann ADA (Sum of all District Form GANN, Line B3)			27,942.46			27,338.88
C. CURRENT YEAR LOCAL PROCEEDS OF TAXES/STATE	2024-25 Actual			2025-26 Budget		
AID RECEIVED						
TAXES AND SUBVENTIONS (Funds 01, 09, and 62)						
1. Homeowners' Exemption (Object 8021)	64,512.33		64,512.33	62,611.00		62,611.00
2. Timber Yield Tax (Object 8022)	9,954.59		9,954.59	7,784.00		7,784.00
3. Other Subventions/In-Lieu Taxes (Object 8029)	0.00		0.00	805.00		805.00
4. Secured Roll Taxes (Object 8041)	14,357,715.78		14,357,715.78	13,269,318.00		13,269,318.00
5. Unsecured Roll Taxes (Object 8042)	319,165.83		319,165.83	282,038.00		282,038.00
6. Prior Years' Taxes (Object 8043)	34,996.31		34,996.31	32,219.00		32,219.00
7. Supplemental Taxes (Object 8044)	302,048.20		302,048.20	143,444.00		143,444.00
8. Ed. Rev. Augmentation Fund (ERAF) (Object 8045)	601,940.67		601,940.67	540,458.00		540,458.00
9. Penalties and Int. from Delinquent Taxes (Object 8048)	4,401.24		4,401.24	0.00		0.00
10. Receipts from County Bd. of Supervisors (Object 8070)	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
11. Other In-Lieu Taxes (Object 8082)	929.97		929.97	0.00		0.00
12. Comm. Redevelopment Funds (Objects 8047 & 8625)	2,855,964.98		2,855,964.98	2,303,333.00		2,303,333.00
13. Parcel Taxes (Object 8621)	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
14. Other Non-Ad Valorem Taxes (Object 8622) (Taxes only)	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
15. Penalties and Int. from Delinquent Non-LCFF Taxes (Object 8629) (Only those for the above taxes)	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
16. Transfers to Charter Schools in Lieu of Property Taxes (Object 8096)						
17. TOTAL TAXES AND SUBVENTIONS						

	2024-25 Calculations			2025-26 Calculations		
	Extracted Data	Adjustments*	Entered Data/ Totals	Extracted Data	Adjustments*	Entered Data/ Totals
(Lines C1 through C16)	18,551,629.90	0.00	18,551,629.90	16,642,010.00	0.00	16,642,010.00
OTHER LOCAL REVENUES (Funds 01, 09, and 62)						
18. To General Fund from Bond Interest and Redemption Fund (Excess debt service taxes) (Object 8914)						
19. TOTAL LOCAL PROCEEDS OF TAXES (Lines C17 plus C18)	18,551,629.90	0.00	18,551,629.90	16,642,010.00	0.00	16,642,010.00
EXCLUDED APPROPRIATIONS						
20a. Medicare (Enter federally mandated amounts only from objs. 3301 and 3302; do not include negotiated amounts)			475,067.93			523,045.91
20b. Qualified Capital Outlay Projects						
OTHER EXCLUSIONS						
21. Americans with Disabilities Act						
22. Unreimbursed Court Mandated Desegregation Costs						
23. Other Unfunded Court-ordered or Federal Mandates						
24. TOTAL EXCLUSIONS (Lines C20 through C23)			475,067.93			523,045.91
STATE AID RECEIVED (Funds 01, 09, and 62)						
25. LCFF - CY (objects 8011 and 8012)	24,493,063.25		24,493,063.25	24,989,254.00		24,989,254.00
26. LCFF State Aid - Prior Years (Object 8019)	687,690.14		687,690.14	0.00		0.00
27. TOTAL STATE AID RECEIVED (Line C25 plus C26)	25,180,753.39	0.00	25,180,753.39	24,989,254.00	0.00	24,989,254.00
DATA FOR INTEREST CALCULATION						
28. Total Revenues (Funds 01, 09 & 62, objects 8000-8799)	81,217,725.64		81,217,725.64	78,287,131.68		78,287,131.68
29. Total Interest and Return on Investments (Funds 01, 09, and 62, objects 8660 and 8662)	3,598,928.54		3,598,928.54	3,598,928.54		3,598,928.54
D. APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT CALCULATIONS			2024-25 Actual			2025-26 Budget
PRELIMINARY APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT						
1. Revised Prior Year Program Limit (Lines A1 plus A12)			13,475,143.78			13,689,227.31
2. Inflation Adjustment			1.0362			1.0644
3. Program Population Adjustment (Lines B3 divided by [A4 plus A14]) (Round to four decimal places)			0.9860			0.9982
4. PRELIMINARY PROGRAM LIMIT (Lines D1 times D2 times D3)			13,767,462.77			14,544,586.08
5. Revised Prior Year Other Services Limit						

	2024-25 Calculations			2025-26 Calculations		
	Extracted Data	Adjustments*	Entered Data/ Totals	Extracted Data	Adjustments*	Entered Data/ Totals
(Lines A2 plus A13)			5,946,502.35			6,040,976.16
6. Inflation Adjustment			1.0362			1.0644
7. Other Services Population Adj. (Lines B4 divided by [A5 plus A15]) (Round to four decimal places)			0.9677			0.9784
8. PRELIMINARY OTHER SERVICES LIMIT (Lines D5 times D6 times D7)			5,962,740.70			6,291,126.70
9. PRELIMINARY TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT (Lines D4 plus D8)			19,730,203.47			20,835,712.78
APPROPRIATIONS SUBJECT TO THE LIMIT						
10. Local Revenues Excluding Interest (Line C19)			18,551,629.90			16,642,010.00
11. Preliminary State Aid Calculation						
a. Maximum State Aid in Local Limit (Lesser of Line C27 or [Lines D9 minus D10 plus C24]; if negative, then zero)			1,653,641.50			4,716,748.69
12. Local Revenues in Proceeds of Taxes						
a. Interest Counting in Local Limit (Lines C29 divided by [C28 minus C29] times [D10 plus D11a])			936,852.03			1,029,193.94
b. Total Local Proceeds of Taxes (Lines D10 plus D12a)			19,488,481.93			17,671,203.94
13. State Aid in Proceeds of Taxes (lesser of Line D11a or [Lines D9 minus D12b plus C24]; if negative, then zero)			716,789.47			3,687,554.75
14. Total Appropriations Subject to the Limit						
a. Local Revenues (Line D12b)			19,488,481.93			
b. State Subventions (Line D13)			716,789.47			
c. Less: Excluded Appropriations (Line C24)			475,067.93			
d. TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS SUBJECT TO THE LIMIT (Lines D14a plus D14b minus D14c)			19,730,203.47			
15. Adjustments to the Limit Per Government Code Section 7902.1 (Line D14d minus D9)			0.00			
SUMMARY						
16. Adjusted Appropriations Limit (Lines D9 plus D15)			19,730,203.47			20,835,712.78
17. Appropriations Subject to the Limit						

[illegible]



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 11.3

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

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Action



Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-41 Recognizing United Against Hate Week

BACKGROUND

Hate has no place in society, and least of all on our school campuses. Alongside our school districts, the Santa Cruz COE and County Board of Education rejects hatred, racism, prejudice, violence, and bullying in all forms. We are committed to ensuring our schools are safe and welcoming spaces for learners of all identities. We are encouraging recognition of United Against Hate Week at all schools within our community from Sunday, October 19, 2025, through Saturday, October 25, 2025.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #25-41 Recognizing United Against Hate Week



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Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #25-41

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING UNITED AGAINST HATE WEEK

WHEREAS, hate has no place in society, least of all on our school campuses; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education rejects hatred, racism, prejudice, violence, and bullying in all forms; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education is committed to ensuring our schools are safe and welcoming spaces for learners of all identities; and

WHEREAS, **Sunday, October 19th, through Saturday, October 25th**, is recognized annually as United Against Hate Week, an opportunity to come together and reflect; and

WHEREAS, United Against Hate Week emerged from the response of Berkeley and other East Bay civic leaders to a series of extremist demonstrations in 2017; and

WHEREAS, this week has since grown to include more than 200 communities and is continuing to expand; and

WHEREAS, **the Santa Cruz County Board of Education** encourages recognition of United Against Hate Week at all schools within our community; and

WHEREAS, this week calls for local civic action by people in every community to stop the hate and implicit biases that continue to impact too many members of our community; and

WHEREAS, this week is an important opportunity to learn about ongoing efforts at schools and across our community and to join in solidarity around a clear message: Hate has no place here; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and local school districts have created a toolkit with activity ideas for elementary and secondary students, sample social media posts, and information about local and national events; and

WHEREAS, sadly, acts of hatred, abusive language, and bullying appear to be on the rise, affecting elementary, middle, and high school students, and especially our LGBTQIA2S+ students and students of color; and

WHEREAS, California saw a staggering uptick in hate crimes from 2020 to 2021, and Santa Cruz County was no different; and

WHEREAS, data compiled by the California Department of Justice shows hate-related offenses more than doubled in our county, from 16 in 2020 to 43 in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the misguided narratives propping up hatred and intolerance that continue to be present in our society, even by federal officials, represent a sign of the work yet to be done;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and Santa Cruz County Office of Education are firmly committed to building our shared understanding of where acts of hatred and bullying persist; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education encourages local schools and community to join in addressing acts of hatred and bullying; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and Santa Cruz County Office of Education recognize Sunday, October 19, through Saturday, October 25, as United Against Hate Week.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 11.4

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

☒ X

Action



Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-42 Recognizing November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

BACKGROUND

In 2007, Congress established November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month to raise awareness about youth homelessness, its causes, and potential solutions. This month is a time to recognize efforts addressing youth homelessness and strengthen the commitment to ending it in the United States. The California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC) and the California Department of Education (CDE) support this initiative and emphasize the role of education in preventing and ending youth homelessness. The Board will consider adopting this Resolution.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #25-42 Recognizing November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month



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Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #25-42
RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS
MONTH

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 24 and 1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25 in the United States experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, U.S. public schools enroll more than one million children and youth experiencing homelessness each school year; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 2,738 youth experienced homelessness in Santa Cruz County in the 2023-24 School Year, according to data collected by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of youth experiencing homelessness are members of historically underserved populations, including youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth; and

WHEREAS, youth experiencing homelessness on their own are more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse, labor or sex trafficking, and other forms of exploitation; and

WHEREAS, students experiencing homelessness continue to face challenges due to high levels of school mobility, residential mobility, educational disruption, unmet basic needs, and homelessness-related trauma and stress; and

WHEREAS, youth without a high school credential are 346% more likely to experience homelessness than their peers who complete high school; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Students in Transition program provides assistance to children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness, including implementing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, with a focus on ensuring their educational rights and protections; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Students in Transition program aims to bring greater awareness of the challenges and needs experienced by children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness and the resources available to address those challenges and needs; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 Congress passed its first resolution recognizing November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month to build awareness of the issue of youth homelessness, including its causes and potential solutions, and highlight the need to work to prevent homelessness among children and teens; and

WHEREAS, schools and organizations across the country have continued to recognize November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month each year to bring greater awareness to the issue of youth homelessness; and applaud the efforts of businesses, organizations, and volunteers dedicated to meeting the needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness, and grow the commitment to intensify efforts to prevent and end homelessness among young people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and Office of Education would demonstrate commitment to improving the educational outcomes, housing outcomes, and overall well-being of children and youth experiencing homelessness by bringing attention to and supporting National Homeless Youth Awareness Month events and initiatives throughout Santa Cruz County during the month of November in 2025;

WHEREAS, recent changes in Federal policy, funding and staffing are creating new uncertainties, stressors and even fear for many of our homeless students, teachers, staff, family and community members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Santa Cruz County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month and hereby request that schools, families, and community leaders of Santa Cruz County recognize the unique challenges and needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness and commit to increasing both awareness of the issues impacting these children, youth, and families and their commitment to helping them succeed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 11.5

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

☒ X

Action



Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-43 Recognizing National Native American Heritage Month

BACKGROUND

In the US, November 1 through November 30 is recognized as National Native American Heritage Month. National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #25-43 Recognizing National Native American Heritage Month



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Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #25-43
RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, from November 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans are descendants of the original, Indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of the Census estimated that, in 2020, there were more than 9,700,000 individuals of Native American descent in the United States, including 1.9% of Santa Cruz County residents; and

WHEREAS, all Santa Cruz County Office of Education facilities, programs, and services are provided on the unceded territory of the Indigenous Awaswas- and Mutsun-speaking peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band is comprised of the descendants of Indigenous peoples taken to Missions Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band founded the Amah Mutsun Land Trust, a nonprofit actively working to protect and conserve cultural sites, research and restore traditional stewardship and land management practices, honor indigenous ancestors, and educate the public on the importance of traditional Mutsun stewardship; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in Federal policy, funding and staffing are creating new uncertainties, stressors and even fear for many of our Native American students, teachers, staff, family and community members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes the month of November as National Native American Heritage Month and recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1923);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education urges school districts in Santa Cruz County to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 11.6

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

☒ X

Action



Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-44 Recognizing School Psychology Week

BACKGROUND

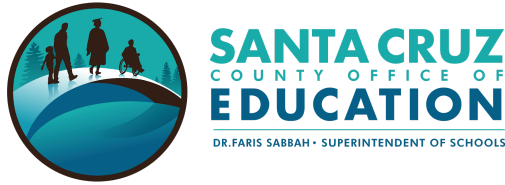
The Board will consider adoption of Resolution #25-44 recognizing November 3–7, 2025 as National School Psychology Week. This resolution highlights the essential contributions of school psychologists in supporting student academic achievement, social-emotional development, and mental health. It emphasizes their leadership in data-informed problem solving, prevention and early intervention within Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and their role in promoting safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environments. The resolution further encourages schools, departments, and community partners to celebrate and acknowledge the expertise and dedication of school psychologists throughout Santa Cruz County.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #25-44 Recognizing School Psychology Week



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Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #25-44
RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK, NOVEMBER 3–7, 2025

WHEREAS, National School Psychology Week is observed annually during the first full week of November to highlight the vital role school psychologists play in supporting the academic achievement, social–emotional development, and mental health of all students; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists are uniquely trained in data-informed problem solving, prevention, and early intervention within Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and they collaborate with educators, administrators, and community partners to remove barriers to learning; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists promote safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environments through culturally responsive practices, trauma-informed supports, and advocacy for the needs of multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and historically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists strengthen family–school partnerships, provide consultation and coaching to staff, conduct comprehensive assessments, and help design individualized services that foster student well-being and success; and

WHEREAS, school psychologists contribute essential expertise in crisis prevention, intervention, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education recognizes that the well-being of students, staff, and families is foundational to safe, healthy, and thriving schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education hereby proclaims November 3–7, 2025, as National School Psychology Week across Santa Cruz County schools and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages schools, departments, and community partners to recognize and celebrate the expertise and contributions of school

psychologists through staff acknowledgments, student-focused activities that promote connection and wellness, and communication to families about supports available;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board extends its deepest appreciation to SCCOE and district school psychologists for their unwavering commitment to student success, equitable access, and safe learning environments.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 11.7

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2025

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Action



Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-45 Recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

BACKGROUND

The Board will consider adoption of Resolution #25-45 recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day on November 14, 2025. The resolution honors Ruby Bridges' historic role in advancing educational equity and acknowledges the Countywide Black Student Union and community partners for promoting inclusion through local events and student engagement activities.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #25-45 Recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day



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

Mr. Ed Acosta • Dr. Stacey Kyle • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #25-45
RECOGNIZING RUBY BRIDGES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

WHEREAS, on November 14, 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges made history by becoming the first Black student to attend an all-white elementary school in the American South, in defiance of segregation and in pursuit of equal educational opportunity for all children; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her enduring legacy, “Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day” is an initiative to encourage students and communities to walk to school together while reflecting on the ongoing importance of access, equity, and justice in education; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Cruz County, the Countywide Black Student Union (BSU) organized the largest local commemoration to date, bringing together students from Pajaro Valley High, Soquel High, Santa Cruz High, and other schools in walk-to-school events and related programming honoring Ruby Bridges’s bravery and impact; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education expresses gratitude to the Ruby Bridges Foundation for its support of these events and for inspiring students to reflect on equity, inclusion, and community; and

WHEREAS, the Countywide BSU aims to build safe, supportive spaces for Black students and their allies, promoting cultural awareness, relationship building, and equitable access to resources and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the bravery of Ruby Bridges and the Civil Rights movement give inspiration to many today in light of racist and unjust pronouncements and actions of the current national government; and

WHEREAS, honoring Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day provides an opportunity for students, parents, educators, civic leaders, and community members to come together, walk in solidarity, and recommit to fostering inclusive and just learning environments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes November 14, 2025, as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, and that the board hereby encourages all schools, students, staff, parents, and community partners to participate in walk-to-school events, classroom reflections, and educational activities centered on civil rights, equity, and the legacy of Ruby Bridges;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board and Superintendent express appreciation to the local Black Student Union chapters, the Ruby Bridges Foundation, and all community organizations, volunteers, and participants who help make this observance meaningful and impactful;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education encourages schools to integrate lessons and discussions about Ruby Bridges, civil rights, and the ongoing struggle for equity into classroom curricula, school assemblies, and student engagement programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of October 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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