



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

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

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

RESOLUTION #25-32
RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 to 34; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one person dies by suicide every 11.7 minutes, resulting in nearly 49,000 deaths each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are around 1.5 million suicide attempts each year; and

WHEREAS, there are an average of 130 suicides each day in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 9 out of 10 suicide attempt survivors do not go on to die by suicide, underscoring that suicide is preventable as well as the importance of timely intervention, compassionate support, and access to effective care; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

WHEREAS, 38 percent of LGBTQ+ youth in Santa Cruz County reported experiencing suicidal ideation in the past year, compared to 11 percent of their non-LGBTQ+ peers — underscoring the urgent need for inclusive and affirming prevention and support efforts; and

WHEREAS, September is recognized as “National Suicide Prevention Month” in the United States which overlaps with World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10th, recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is committed to:

1. Recognizing suicide as a preventable national, State and local public health problem;
2. Supporting the declaration that suicide prevention should be a priority;
3. Supporting the designation of September as “National Suicide Prevention Month”;
4. Developing and implementing strategies to increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.
5. Increasing awareness of the new 9-8-8 crisis hotline in the school community
6. Participating in suicide prevention initiatives by working with local organizations that listen to and support those who are at risk for suicide.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 21st day of August 2025, by the following vote:

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

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:



Abel Sanchez
Board President



Dr. Faris Sabbah
County Superintendent of Schools