



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 Guillen Martinez & Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #26-02

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2026 AS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health issue and crime that affects individuals, families, and communities across generations, exploiting the most vulnerable among us and weakening our collective well-being; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act is a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion; or when a person induced to perform such acts is not yet 18 years old; or the recruiting, harboring, transporting or obtaining of a person for labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion for subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 27.6 million people are subjected to human trafficking globally, including cases of human trafficking reported in every state and territory across the United States, and in California 1,335 cases of human trafficking involving 2,122 victims were identified in 2021; and

WHEREAS, certain populations are at higher risk of human trafficking, including those affected by prior abuse, sexual violence, poverty, unstable living situations or homelessness, and those systemically marginalized and underserved; and

WHEREAS, people can be trafficked in person and online, in industries such as restaurants, cleaning services, construction, and factories, and by strangers or someone they know, including partners, parents, and other family members; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide response, and is preventable by building individual, community, and societal understanding and resilience, reducing social inequities, and addressing social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz is dedicated to ensuring those impacted by human trafficking receive person-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally and linguistically appropriate care, forming diverse partnerships to comprehensively address human trafficking, and appropriately engaging and collaborating with those who've experienced human trafficking to strengthen related services and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) provides comprehensive training to all staff, including a mandatory Human Trafficking Awareness training co-created with survivor input and a partnership with nonprofit Rising Worldwide to facilitate survivor-led workshops that provide insight and awareness around prevention and intervention; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz COE provides human trafficking awareness curriculum and resources to students and maintains a human trafficking awareness family resource guide to empower the school community and promote the safety and protection of all youth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby proclaim the month of January 2026 to be Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and encourage the community to learn more about how they can help prevent and stop human trafficking.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 15th day of January, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: **Kyle, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams**

NAYS: **None**

ABSENT: **Acosta**

ABSTAIN: **None**

Rachel Williams

Rachel Williams, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Faris Sabbah

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