



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

Student Trustee: Vicente Guillen Martinez and Ash Immoor

RESOLUTION #26-08
RECOGNIZING MARCH AS ARTS EDUCATION MONTH

WHEREAS, the arts are a necessary and required component of every California student’s education to develop well-rounded, life-long learners who contribute to the prosperity and quality of life for local and global communities; and

WHEREAS, arts education is crucial to achieving our state’s educational policy devoted to the teaching of essential academic skills and lifelong learning capacities to truly prepare all children for success in school and life regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, language, economic status, physical ability, or learning ability; and

WHEREAS, arts education prepares students for the 21st-century workforce, furthers academic goals, complements learning in other core subjects, improves student engagement and attendance, strengthens family and community engagement, and enhances a positive school culture and climate; and

WHEREAS, arts education connects us to our history, heritage, and culture, fostering appreciation, affirmation, and revitalization of one’s culture and understanding of other cultures; and

WHEREAS, arts education promotes the development of emotional intelligence, social-emotional learning, critical thinking, effective communication, collaborative skills, and creativity; and

WHEREAS, arts education—dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts—develops engaged, creative, expressive, responsive, empathetic, and artistically literate communities, fosters joy, promotes tolerance, and cultivates decency in society; and

WHEREAS, the arts are a recognized part of quality education, and the University of California and the California State University have instituted a policy that includes arts education as a college preparatory subject for all high school pupils wishing to enter the state’s institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, California voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of Proposition 28: The Arts and Music in Schools – Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, mandating dedicated funding and equitable access to arts education for all California public school students; and

WHEREAS, communities across Santa Cruz County consistently support local arts education, valuing the enhanced well-being and opportunities it brings for students, as well as celebrating the diverse cultural and historical heritage we share; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education includes arts education and promotes creative expression by students in its own schools and programs, with dedicated teachers and partnerships with local arts organizations, rooted in the belief that participation in the artistic process can significantly and positively impact self-esteem in at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, many national and state professional arts education associations hold celebrations in March, giving California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of the arts for all students, foster cross-cultural understanding, provide recognition to the state’s outstanding young artists, and enhance public support for this essential part of the curriculum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes the month of March as “Arts Education Month” throughout Santa Cruz County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 19th day of February 2026, by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

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