



RESOLUTION #26-11
RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL BILINGUAL/MULTILINGUAL LEARNER
ADVOCACY MONTH

WHEREAS, 40% of Santa Cruz County's TK-12 students, about 14,600 students, are multilingual learners, meaning they are developing proficiency in two or more languages; and

WHEREAS, this group includes students who are learning English as an additional language in school (English Learners), students who entered school fluent in English and with an additional home language (Initially Fluent English Proficient, or IFEP), and students who have become fluent in English in addition to their home language (Reclassified Fluent English Proficient, or RFEP); and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County students speak more than 50 languages, with English and Spanish the most common followed by Mixteco, Mandarin, and Arabic; and

WHEREAS, these students embody the strengths of our multilingual community; and

WHEREAS, National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month highlights a commitment to ensure educational equity and access for these learners to thrive academically and become productive bi-literate/multiliterate global citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) supports multilingual learners across our school community, including by providing professional development to educators, creating actionable resources such as the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) toolkit, and hosting events such as the annual World Languages Showcase to highlight the diversity and beauty of multilingualism; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for multilingual learners and their families;

Resolution #26-11 Recognizing April as National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month
Santa Cruz County Board of Education
March 19, 2026

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz COE and the Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognize and celebrate April 2026 as “National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month” and urge all educators to advocate on behalf of multilingual learners and commends the work of Santa Cruz County Family Engagement Collaborative.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 19th day of March 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