



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 #26-14

RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK

WHEREAS, Earth Day, first celebrated on April 22, 1970, marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement, which led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Act; and

WHEREAS, April 22, 2026, marks the 56th anniversary of Earth Day, a global event that highlights the importance of protecting our planet and fostering sustainability; and

WHEREAS, April 19–23, 2026, is National Environmental Education Week, the nation’s largest celebration of environmental education; and

WHEREAS, National Environmental Education Week brings together the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), educators, students, government agencies, businesses, communities, non-profit organizations, and others to inspire and promote environmental learning and stewardship of land, air, and water; and

WHEREAS, the more we understand our connection to the environment, the more opportunities we have to influence how those connections impact our health and planet, as small, individual actions add up to a big difference; and

WHEREAS, environmental education offers countless opportunities to improve lives, protect the environment, and prepare all individuals to address critical environmental challenges ahead; and

WHEREAS, schools in Santa Cruz County recognize the central importance of environmental education and seek to provide learning opportunities and avenues for student engagement in environmental concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) supports environmental literacy through numerous programs, including its Green Classroom Initiative which encourages students to work together to “green” their classrooms by committing to specific sustainable behaviors; and

WHEREAS, all participating Green Classrooms will receive recognition at a public Green Classroom Celebration event during the STEAM Expo at Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 28, 2026, in anticipation of Earth Month; and

WHEREAS, the student leadership group Youth for Environmental Action is working to reduce waste across Santa Cruz County schools and is hosting an Environmental Action Summit in April which will convene hundreds of high school students, community partners, educators,, and public officials; and

WHEREAS, the three pillars of sustainability—social, economic, and environmental—must work in conjunction to provide a balanced approach to protecting our planet; and

WHEREAS, human activities contribute to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, which intensify the threat of climate change, and addressing this challenge requires combined human effort; and

WHEREAS, the negative impacts of climate change, habitat destruction, and pollution, including public health and economic consequences, disproportionately affect chronically underserved communities and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new and emerging threats to environmental protections; and

WHEREAS, implementing sustainable practices on school campuses, investing in energy-efficient infrastructure, and making environmentally mindful purchasing decisions can yield significant cost savings for schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education does hereby recognize April 22, 2026, as Earth Day and April 19–23, 2026, as National Environmental Education Week, recognizing the value of environmental education for all students and honoring the leadership of today’s youth to study and protect the environment.

Resolution #26-14 Recognizing Earth Day and Environmental Education Week
Santa Cruz County Board of Education
March 19, 2026

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