



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 #26-21
PROCLAIMING MAY 2026 FOR FLYING THE RAINBOW FLAG AND HONORING HARVEY MILK DAY

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk Day was established by the California legislature and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2009; and

WHEREAS, California *Education Code* Section 37222.13 designates May 22 of each year as Harvey Milk Day, a day having special significance and encourages all public schools and educational institutions to conduct exercises remembering the life of Harvey Milk, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to this state; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2011, the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act was passed and signed into law in California and mandates the inclusion of the political, economic, and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people (LGBTQ+) in the social studies and history curricula in California public schools; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2016, the California State Board of Education passed a new History-Social Science Framework that includes LGBTQ+ American history content to be taught in K-12 classrooms that includes the importance of Harvey Milk; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the history of California; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ community members across Santa Cruz County have made significant contributions to our community including Senator John Laird who was the first openly gay elected official in Santa Cruz County, Cabrillo College Trustees Adam Spickler and Steve Trujillo, County Supervisor Monica Martinez, and many other public officials across the county; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals and allies across Santa Cruz County continue to make noteworthy and important contributions to American history, culture, and society; and

WHEREAS, all students deserve to feel safe and welcome in their schools and to see themselves represented in the curricula; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education supports the rights, freedoms, and equality of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, and asexual (LGBTQ+); and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education affirms its role in, and commitment to, continuing the historical process of transforming the educational system to ensure inclusiveness, safety, and a sense of belonging for all LGBTQ+ students, teachers, staff, and their families; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for many LGBTQ+ students, teachers, staff, family and community members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and Office of Education celebrate Harvey Milk Day and invite all educational institutions, organizations, companies, and individuals across Santa Cruz to fly the rainbow flag in May 2026 in honor of Harvey Milk Day;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education encourages teachers to teach lessons about LGBTQ+ history during this week in their classrooms aligned with the State History Framework and urge all members of the Santa Cruz County educational community to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of April 2026, by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Roth, Sanchez

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