



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 #26-22
**CALLING FOR STRONGER SAFEGUARDS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN
SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR PLACEMENT DECISIONS**

WHEREAS, the State of California occasionally proposes the supervised release of a legally designated “sexually violent predator” to reside in Santa Cruz County, California; and

WHEREAS, California’s Sexually Violent Predator Act designates sexually violent predators as too dangerous to be released freely into general society given their risk of reoffending, thereby requiring heavy surveillance, continuous electronic monitoring, mandated distancing from reasonable opportunities to commit additional violent sexual crime, and residential placement that does not present an undue hazard to the public; and

WHEREAS, the State’s recent proposals for supervised release of sexually violent predators have caused great alarm and fear that proposed release locations may become dangerous, especially to women and children; and

WHEREAS, that reasonable fear could prevent vulnerable residents, especially women and children, from travelling their neighborhood streets and trails on foot and cause others considerable anxiety while doing so; and

WHEREAS, parents, school teachers and staff, and elected board members, local law enforcement agencies, and the general public share these concerns about safety; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Education is concerned about any such placements of sexually violent predators in family neighborhoods, schools, playgrounds, and where families gather; and

WHEREAS, recent proposals to place a sexually violent predator at two potential sites in Santa Cruz County, one in Watsonville and one in Santa Cruz, raised significant concern among residents, public officials, and local agencies regarding the proximity of such placements to children, families, and community-serving locations; and

WHEREAS, although those proposed sites were subsequently withdrawn, the process underscored the need for stronger safeguards, clearer public notice, and meaningful local input in sexually violent predator placement decisions; and

WHEREAS, existing California law prohibits the placement of certain sexually violent predators within one-quarter mile of a public or private TK-12 school under specified circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Education believes that similar protections should apply, at minimum, to child care centers, preschool programs, and family child care homes, which also serve young children and families and are not currently afforded the same clear statutory buffer; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 767 has been introduced to help close that gap in state law by extending the one-quarter-mile buffer to child daycare facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education calls for stronger safeguards for students and families in sexually violent predator placement decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education urges the State and law enforcement to expand awareness and involvement of the public and educational agencies in decisions regarding location of release sites for sexually violent predators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education supports strengthening state law to extend school-adjacent placement protections to child care settings and other locations regularly serving young children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education supports policies that provide meaningful notice and opportunities for input from educational agencies, families, and local communities when sexually violent predator placements are under consideration.

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

Resolution #26-22 Calling for Stronger Safeguards for Students and Families in Sexually Violent Predator Placement Decisions

Santa Cruz County Board of Education

April 16, 2026

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