



**RESOLUTION #26-25**  
**RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes the month of May is National Foster Care Month, a campaign established to recognize the importance of collaborative relationships among community organizations working to support youth in foster care programs; and

**WHEREAS**, in California, the state with the largest foster youth population, there were 26,397 children in foster care as of fiscal year 2025-26. Each year, approximately 20,000 youth age out of the foster care system nationwide without a permanent family; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2025-2026 academic year, 106 children and youth from Santa Cruz County were reported to be in foster care by the California Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, FosterEd manages a Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP) funded by the California Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, youth in foster care face educational instability, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) is committed to improving the academic and social-emotional outcomes of foster youth. Santa Cruz COE provides services to children and youth in foster care through FosterEd by providing assistance and training to local education agencies (LEAs); and

**WHEREAS**, exposure to a traumatic event or living situation can affect learning, and in response, the Santa Cruz COE's Foster Youth Services Program offers services and support to students in foster care, as well as to school districts, agencies, and community-based organizations that work with students in foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, FosterEd connects school districts and community partners and keeps them abreast of educational law that protects youth who are in foster care or experiencing homelessness; and

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**WHEREAS**, FosterEd continues to provide educational case management, educational and career support, educational coaching, and post-secondary planning services for youth in foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Cruz COE's FosterEd program educational liaisons are co-located within Santa Cruz County Child Welfare to facilitate ongoing communication, coordination, and collaboration in support of children and youth served across systems.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Office of Education does hereby adopt Resolution #26-25 to recognize the month of May as National Foster Care Month and calls upon agencies, organizations, schools, and the public to observe this month by coordinating awareness efforts and activities that recognize foster youth organizations and services and improve the well-being of our children and foster youth.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education on this 21st day of May, 2026, by the following vote:

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

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

*Rachel Williams*

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Rachel Williams, Board President  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

*Faris Sabbah*

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Dr. Faris Sabbah, Secretary  
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools