



**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](http://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 Trustees: Vicente Guillen Martinez & Ash Immoor**

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## **RESOLUTION #26-27**

### **RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH**

**WHEREAS**, June 19th is nationally recognized as Juneteenth — the oldest known American celebration of the ending of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19th to announce the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were now free; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth celebrations have since been held to commemorate African American freedom from slavery, and honoring this day, more than 150 years later, helps us learn our history and better understand the experiences of African Americans that shaped this nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth celebrations have become a tradition shared by Black Americans to celebrate community resiliency and Black American cultural achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (Santa Cruz COE) advocates for the continuance of the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth to acknowledge and condemn the atrocities and degradation of our shared past and honors this day of resilience in the face of injustice and inhumanity for present and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz COE acknowledges the historical relevance of this significant event and the generational trauma that accompanies being subject to racism, discrimination, and prejudice as a barrier to positive mental and physical health and well-being, economic opportunity, and academic achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz COE remains committed to improving student equity and access to high quality education as well as to providing quality support to districts, schools, students, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for many in our African American and broader community;

Resolution #26-27 Recognizing Juneteenth  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education  
May 21, 2026

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools recognize and honor June 19, 2026, as Juneteenth and remain committed to inspire equity, create alliances, celebrate diversity, and establish safe environments in our schools and communities throughout the county.

**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