



**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 #26-28**

### **SOS FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: CALLING ON THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO DEVELOP A COHERENT, STATE-FOCUSED PLAN FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS IN CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAPS**

**WHEREAS**, California's 5.8 million public school students represent the future of our state, yet persistent achievement gaps continue to separate students by income, race, and geography; and

**WHEREAS**, recent California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results, California School Dashboard outcomes, and other performance indicators reveal only incremental advances in academic and school outcomes while profound disparities between student groups remain entrenched; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts and county offices of education work tirelessly to accelerate learning, support student well-being, and accelerate performance for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, these local efforts occur within a state system that remains fragmented, reactive, and insufficiently accountable for its own responsibility to support school districts and county offices of education, boost overall academic achievement, and advance achievement of historically low-performing student groups; and

**WHEREAS**, California's Legislature, administration, and state agencies have implemented numerous programs aimed at improving student outcomes, yet the absence of a coherent, comprehensive, state-level plan has resulted in a patchwork of disconnected initiatives rather than a unified strategy for success; and

**WHEREAS**, California lacks a comprehensive, state-level operations and support plan that clearly defines how the state will help — not dictate to — local education agencies in their ongoing work to close achievement gaps; and

**WHEREAS**, this lack of coordination and long-term vision has produced an accountability gap, a failure by state agencies and the Legislature to hold themselves to the same standards of transparency, alignment, and measurable progress expected of LEAs; and

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May 21, 2026

**WHEREAS**, closing the achievement gap is not solely the responsibility of local districts and county offices of education, but a shared obligation that requires the state to define and meet its own performance goals in supporting LEAs, align funding and policy decisions, and ensure every student has access to the resources needed to succeed; and

**WHEREAS**, true accountability means that the state, like local school district and county boards, must adopt clear goals, measurable benchmarks and transparent reporting to the public on its progress in improving outcomes for California students; and

**WHEREAS**, the future of California’s economy, civic health, and democratic vitality depends on the success of all students, and continued stagnation in academic performance threatens the state’s workforce, economic competitiveness, and quality of life,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education calls upon the Governor, the Legislature, and relevant state agencies — including the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, in collaboration with statewide education organizations like the California School Boards Association — to jointly develop and adopt a comprehensive state-level plan to support local educational agencies in closing achievement gaps; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such a plan should:

- Establish specific, measurable goals for state agencies’ roles in supporting LEAs;
- Include annual benchmarks and transparent reporting on the state’s progress in improving student outcomes;
- Align the state budget with these goals, ensuring that funding decisions advance coherent, long-term strategies rather than isolated programs; and
- Create a public “State of the Gap” dashboard, providing ongoing data on how the state is meeting its obligations to support LEAs and promote educational equity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education affirms its continued commitment to closing achievement gaps and providing equitable educational opportunities for all students, while urging state leaders to act with urgency, coherence and accountability in addressing this statewide challenge; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education shall transmit this resolution to the California School Boards Association for inclusion in statewide advocacy efforts encouraging coordinated state action to help LEAs close achievement gaps and improve outcomes for every student in California.

**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