



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 Trustees: Vicente Guillen Martinez & Ash Immoor

**RESOLUTION #26-29 OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF IMMIGRATION
DETENTION FACILITIES AND AFFIRMING SAFE ACCESS TO PUBLIC
EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education is committed to ensuring that every child in Santa Cruz County can safely access a free public education, regardless of immigration status, national origin, race, ethnicity, language, religion, disability, housing status, or any other protected characteristic; and

WHEREAS, public schools serve as trusted community spaces where students and families access learning, meals, counseling, health referrals, multilingual support, special education services, and other essential resources; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has recognized that all children, regardless of immigration status, have a constitutional right to access public TK-12 education; and

WHEREAS, despite this established American right, fear of arbitrary and discriminatory immigration enforcement, detention, family separation, and deportation can deter students and families from attending school, participating in school activities, seeking services, reporting safety concerns, and engaging with educators and school staff; and

WHEREAS, this fear undermines student learning, attendance, emotional well-being, and the ability of educators and public agencies to serve children and families effectively; and

WHEREAS, public reporting and community communications indicate that federal procurement records and property records have raised serious concerns about a potential immigration detention facility in unincorporated Santa Clara County near Gilroy, adjacent to Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County leaders and community advocates have expressed strong opposition to any immigration detention center in the county or across the Bay Area, citing the potential harm to children, families, workers, and immigrant communities; and

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May 21, 2026

WHEREAS, community partners have also raised urgent concerns that the former Federal Correctional Institution Dublin, which was closed in 2024 following years of reported instances of abuse and unsafe conditions, could be transferred in a manner that allows it to be reopened or repurposed for immigration detention; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of immigration detention infrastructure in Northern California could increase immigration enforcement activity in surrounding communities, deepen fear among students and families, and place additional strain on schools, local governments, health systems, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, children should not have to choose between attending school and protecting their families from perceived or actual risks associated with immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes the vital role of immigrant students, families, educators, and staff in the life of our schools, communities, economy, and civic life;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education opposes the development, expansion, reopening, or repurposing of immigration detention facilities in Santa Clara County, Dublin, the Bay Area, the Central Coast, or any nearby community where such facilities would harm students, families, and public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education affirms that every student in Santa Cruz County has the right to attend school safely and without fear, that schools must remain welcoming and inclusive environments for all children and families, and that the Board supports efforts by local educational agencies, community-based organizations, legal service providers, and public agencies to provide accurate information, culturally responsive support, and trusted resources to immigrant students and families, including regional immigrant family resources such as susederechos.info.

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

Rachel Williams, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Faris Sabbah

Dr. Faris Sabbah, Secretary
Santa Cruz County Superintendent