

San Rafael City Schools
Resolution #2425-56
In Support and Recognition of Autism Awareness Month
April 1 – April 30th 2025

WHEREAS, The Society for Autism was founded in 1965 with the mission to promote research and provide support for individuals living with autism; and

WHEREAS, The Society played a key role in the development of legislation under the Disabilities Act, which recognizes and protects individuals with autism; and

WHEREAS, World Autism Awareness Day, observed on April 2, was established to raise public awareness and improve the quality of life for those diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), empowering them to lead full, meaningful lives as integral members of society; and

WHEREAS, Autism manifests in various ways, and individuals with this condition face unique challenges depending on where they fall on the autism spectrum; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the latter half of the 20th century, only individuals with severe symptoms of autism were diagnosed, and many were often institutionalized; and

WHEREAS, Autism was once incorrectly believed to be caused by poor parenting or vaccinations, rather than being understood as a neurological condition; and

WHEREAS, Today, awareness campaigns in schools and increased self-advocacy have enhanced global understanding and acceptance of autism; and

WHEREAS, Autism is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC in 2024, approximately 1 in 36 children in the United States is diagnosed with ASD, with boys being four times more likely to be diagnosed than girls; and

WHEREAS, During Autism Awareness Month, we celebrate the many achievements of Americans with ASD and commit to ensuring they are provided equal opportunities to reach their full potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Rafael City Schools Board of Trustees recognizes the challenges faced by individuals with autism and reaffirms its commitment to supporting them during Autism Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to all schools within the district.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on March 24, 2025, by the Governing Board of the San Rafael City Schools, by the following vote:

Maureen de Nieva-Marsh _____
Mark Koerner _____
Dr. Wing Keung Jason Lau _____
Carolina Martin _____
Isai Rodas _____

Carolina Martin
Board President

Carmen Diaz Ghysels
Superintendent