

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION
DECLARING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS ONE OF THE MOST PRESSING CRISES OF
OUR
TIME; THAT THE DISTRICT HAS AN OBLIGATION AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO
PREPARE STUDENTS FOR A WORLD SHAPED BY THE DEGRADATION OF OUR
ENVIRONMENT; AND ESTABLISHING A COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT
EXISTING CURRICULA AND PRACTICES TO ESTABLISH A MINIMUM STANDARD OF
CLIMATE LITERACY FOR ITS STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, the United Nations has recognized Climate Literacy as essential to achieving a better and more prosperous future for all as outlined in goal target 13.3 of their Sustainable Development Goals;

WHEREAS, the United States is a great nation and has a proud heritage of addressing humanity's most pressing problems;

WHEREAS, the state of California and the city of Santa Monica are global leaders in sustainability and addressing the climate crisis, and Santa Monica's [Climate Action and Adaptation Plan](#) cites increasing climate literacy as one of its goals;

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's (SMMUSD) has a responsibility to prioritize climate literacy and sustainability for all of its students to be prepared to tackle climate change as stated in its [Board-approved Sustainability Plan](#);

WHEREAS, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) have recognized the significance of climate change by implementing standards which emphasize the understanding of the Earth and human activity, and were approved by the SMMUSD Board of Education and California's State Board of Education;

WHEREAS, the [California PTA](#) has declared climate change to be a youth issue and cites working with local schools to address climate goals and create positive change;

WHEREAS, increased extreme weather events attributed to climate change continue to expose greater numbers of youth and adults to toxic pollutants and potentially traumatic events, contributing to increased rates of posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression according to the [National Association of School Psychologists climate action resolution](#), which overlays with the district's commitment to social, emotional, and physical health;

WHEREAS, climate change is already resulting in severe weather patterns, loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, the displacement of millions of people, exacerbation of poverty, and increased risk of adverse health effects around the globe;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has estimated that we are on track to reach a 1.5° C increase in global average temperatures from pre-industrial revolution levels by 2040 (if not before), the threshold that scientists believe to be a climate tipping point for our planet; and

WHEREAS, the SMMUSD Board of Education made the decision to transition to 100% renewable energy through the Clean Power Alliance in March of 2023, and should continue to demonstrate its commitment to climate action by prioritizing environmental education;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education shall move to support present curricula and practices in order to prepare students to combat climate change and educate for the greater good. The School District will work towards developing an education that fully prepares students to be good stewards of the environment by:

- i. enhancing curriculum in elementary schools to incorporate age-appropriate discussions and education about climate change. Classroom materials will be utilized with an eye towards addressing the importance of climate issues and their causes.
- ii. enhancing curricula in secondary schools to go into more depth on climate issues, where applicable or advantageous, particularly across content areas and beyond science classrooms
- iii. providing staff development opportunities and resources minimum twice per year to all teachers and administration to facilitate effective integration of climate-related topics across disciplines.
- iv. integrating climate-related literature within preparatory Language Arts and Social Studies classes
- v. strongly encouraging teachers to commit to at least one lesson per semester on a climate topic, examining the climate crisis through a social, economic, political, and/or scientific lens (in addition to NGSS aligned lessons). Teachers will be granted discretion over these lessons and are encouraged to provide real-world, hands-on learning opportunities for students in the form of a classroom discussion, guest speakers, age-appropriate environmental film, analysis of recent media and news articles, art project, research project, capstone project, and/or civic engagement project. These lessons will take place across content areas and beyond science classes in TK-12.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, students will collaborate with district staff to measure and report on the success of integrating climate literacy into the annual curriculum and will report back to the Board of Education on a yearly basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SMMUSD faculty or staff will collaborate with TK-12 students to create recurring assemblies/seminars during advisory/flex-time and/or before/after school informing students on the state of the environment and climate solutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the SMMUSD Board will work towards adopting [CSBA Policy 6142.5](#) for environmental education within one year, a policy that according to the [Board-approved Sustainability Plan](#) was to be adopted by the year 2020; this policy will help SMMUSD prepare students to combat climate change in their lives.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of November 2023 by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Maria Leon-Vazquez
Board of Education President

Date

Dr. Antonio Shelton
Superintendent

Date