

**RESOLUTION NO. 22/23-3499**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**Proclamation Declaring February 15, 2023 as We Care Day**

WHEREAS, the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Education unanimously passes this resolution acknowledging mental health awareness and prevention as vital in our schools and community to address the increase in childhood and adolescent mental health concerns, such as anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, and trauma; and

WHEREAS, people of all ages experience trauma, which has a long-lasting impact on children and adolescents that is exacerbated by the lack of access to mental health services and coping skills to manage the impact of traumatic events in their young lives; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health and wellness of all ages, particularly children and adolescents, it highlights the need for reducing stigma and shame surrounding mental illness to encourage students to seek and obtain help; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 6 youth in the U.S. aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year, campaigning for mental health, wellness, and prevention initiatives, and efforts can create safe and trusting school and community environments to improve students' self-efficacy, connectedness, and increase seek-helping behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Ana Unified School District understands the importance of providing a safe and inclusive school climate and culture by promoting relevant and appropriate mental health and wellness resources for ALL students, such as creating and establishing the "We Care, Get Help" Campaign. The "We Care, Get Help" Campaign is a districtwide Suicide Prevention and Mental Health awareness movement developed to send

1 messages of care and hope, increase student’s comfort in seeking assistance, adequately equip staff to respond to  
2 crisis situations, and increase awareness of mental health warning signs; and

3 WHEREAS, the school district acknowledges that mental health and suicide prevention initiatives,  
4 efforts, and campaigns can effectively implement the policies outlined by the California Education Code Section  
5 215, which mandates that the Governing Board of any local educational agency that serves pupils in grades seven  
6 to twelve, inclusive, adopt a policy on pupil suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. “We Care, Get  
7 Help” Campaign aims to address the three key areas and initiate prevention efforts with students as young as 5  
8 years old and implement mental health, wellness, and suicide preventions efforts in each of the K-12 school sites;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, among other supports, the District places an emphasis on awareness and prevention efforts  
11 by increasing the number of students being connected with mental health services. It has approved a memorandum  
12 of understanding with several community agencies to ensure that students and families in the District have access  
13 to local mental health resources and education. The District has developed a memorandum of understanding with  
14 community agencies such as: OC Health Care Agency, Western Youth Services, National Alliance on Mental  
15 Illness, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services to support district-  
16 wide resources; and

17 WHEREAS, among other supports, the District has also increased credentialed and licensed personnel,  
18 such as school counselors and school social workers, to ensure that students have access to appropriate school  
19 mental health resources; to ensure support is available when students are challenged by a mental health crisis.  
20 The Santa Ana Unified School District is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment that teaches  
21 and promotes suicide prevention, mental health, and emotional wellness for ALL students; and

22 WHEREAS, schools play a critical role in ensuring that LGBTQ students have access to supportive  
23 spaces and the mental health care they need, and have a right to be in a place that is safe, supportive, and not  
24 harmful to their mental or physical health; and

1 WHEREAS, Kinder Future LLC has been providing targeted support to gender and sexual minority  
2 (GSM) youth and outreach to LGBTQI+ students and their families since 2014; and

3 WHEREAS, the Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) has developed a strategic partnership with  
4 the LGBTQ Center OC and has engaged in monthly LGBTQ Support Planning meetings with the OC LGBTQ  
5 Center, based in Santa Ana; and

6 WHEREAS, the SAUSD Support Services has been working to create inclusive school climates where  
7 gender and sexual minority students feel welcomed, including the “Safe Zone” campaign initiated in 2014; and

8 WHEREAS, Support Services is supporting the planning of the annual LGBTQ Youth Convening, a  
9 county-wide conference for LGBTQI+ youth, families, and professionals, which will be hosted at Segerstrom  
10 High School in May 2023.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees of the Santa Ana Unified School  
12 District recognizes February 15, 2023 as the districtwide We Care Day to collectively raise awareness about  
13 mental health and suicide prevention as an unified front within the Santa Ana Unified School District and its  
14 community partners.

15  
16  
17 APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Santa Ana Unified School District on February  
18 28, 2023 by the following vote:

19 AYES:

20 NOES:

21 ABSENT:

22 By:

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 Carolyn Torres  
25 President of the Board of Education  
26 Santa Ana Unified School District

27 ATTEST:

1 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Hector Bustos  
3 Clerk of the Board of Education  
4 Santa Ana Unified School District

5 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )

6 ) ss:

7 COUNTY OF ORANGE )

8 I, Clerk of the Board of Education of the Santa Ana Unified School District of Orange County, California,  
9 hereby certify that the above and foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting  
10 thereof held on 28 day of February 2023 and passed by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ of said Board.

11  
12 BOARD OF EDUCATION

13 SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
14  
15

16 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
17 Hector Bustos  
18 Clerk of the Board of Education  
19 Santa Ana Unified School District