

**SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER  
AS NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. Every year, hundreds of thousands of American families become homeless, including more than 1.7 million children; and

**WHEREAS**, among the nation's homeless population, more than 1.2 million students, from kindergarten through grade 12, experienced homelessness at some point during the 2021-22 school year (SY) totaling about 2.5% of all students in public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, youth and children experiencing homelessness are individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; and

**WHEREAS**, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act further defines youth and children experiencing homelessness as those who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; children and youths who are living in garages, sheds, cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

**WHEREAS**, the population of youth experiencing homelessness also includes unaccompanied youth who have left home for one or more nights without permission; youth who have been kicked out of their homes, are abandoned, deserted, or prevented from returning home; and systems youth who have either aged out of foster care or have been released from juvenile justice or other public systems with nowhere to go; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported 15,763 people under the age of 25 experienced sheltered homelessness on their own as "unaccompanied youth." This represents a decline of nine percent between 2020 and 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, in California public schools the number of students experiencing homelessness was 171,714 in the 2021-22 SY, about 4.0% of statewide enrollment, which was a 6.3% decrease from the 2020-21 SY; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2017 (the baseline year for youth experiencing homelessness at a point of time) and 2021, there was a 15 percent decline in the overall number of sheltered unaccompanied youth reported nationally (or 2,779 fewer youth).

**WHEREAS**, the number of homeless youth who were transgender increased by 29 percent, and the number of sheltered unaccompanied youth who were gender non-conforming increased by 26 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic has contributed to significant job losses, residential evictions, and in turn an increase in family homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, furthermore, the U.S. has welcomed record numbers of newly arrived immigrant and refugee youth into classrooms from South America, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, many of who are unaccompanied minors who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and are eligible to receive services under title VI, subtitle B of the McKinney-Vento Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the according to the District's annual census, 80 of our current students are experiencing homelessness in SMUHSD; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the varying definitions of homelessness and the difficulty in capturing accurate data, the statistics do not necessarily reflect the numbers caught in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. SMUHSD has established programs to best assist schools in the alignment of services to serve students and their families best; and

**WHEREAS**, SMUHSD is committed to improving student equity and access to high-quality education and resources such as school supplies, food, clothing, bus passes, free admission to dances, yearbooks and school apparel for youth experiencing homelessness and who are in foster care through our District and school site homeless student liaisons

**WHEREAS**, SMUHSD is further committed to the socio-emotional health of students experiencing homelessness and who are in foster care through the District's Mental Health services.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the San Mateo Union High School District hereby adopts this resolution to recognize November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

**SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Passed and adopted on this twenty-seventh day of October, 2022

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Superintendent

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President, Board of Trustees