

**SAN MATEO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 7-13, 2024
AS ADULT EDUCATION WEEK**

WHEREAS, The State of California will observe April 7 through April 13, 2024, as Adult Education Week, recognizing the unique accomplishments of California adult schools; and

WHEREAS, The both the California State Legislature and our District acknowledges that K–12-based adult schools offer quality programs to meet the ever-changing economic and workforce development and lifelong learning needs of our diverse state; and

WHEREAS, The first recorded adult education class in California was held in the basement of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco in 1856. The class was authorized by the San Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian, and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer teacher for the class, later became a State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools have been used on numerous occasions to assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and economic issues through job training programs during World War II, immigration reform of the 1980s, and most recently, the Great Recession; and

WHEREAS, Adult education in California overcame its biggest challenge as a result of the severe economic crisis facing both the state and the nation in 2008-2009. Funding that was previously reserved to adult education was redistributed to other levels of education in the state, resulting in many adult schools decreasing in size and some closing; and

WHEREAS, there are currently over 600,000 adult learners enrolled in ESL classes at Adult Schools across California that are in the age-range to have children in our public school system. The impact of adult education is felt across generations, particularly for early childhood learners who have been characterized as a priority of the Governor and Legislature; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo Career & Adult Education successfully serves San Mateo County and the surrounding communities through its collaboration with its community college partners and community-based organizations through the Adult Education system. San Mateo Career & Adult Education served 3,710 students in the 2022-23 school year; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo Career & Adult Education provides significant and varied classes and programs including: classes in Healthcare Training, Computer Technologies Training, Job Preparation Classes, High School Diploma and Equivalency Programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Citizenship Classes, and more; and

WHEREAS, **San Mateo Career & Adult Education** served 268 students in the High School Diploma and GED Programs in the 2022-23 school year. The programs help minimize the high school dropout rate. Nine students earned their high school diploma, and 13 students earned their GED in the 2022-23 school year; and

WHEREAS, **San Mateo Career & Adult Education** served 2,930 students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program in the 2022-23 school year, and parents enrolled in ESL classes and parents enrolled in ESL classes learn how to assist their children with school work and dedicate several hours a year tutoring their own children; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo Career & Adult Education provides a safe environment for its students free from discrimination or bullying regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, amid the COVID-19 pandemic San Mateo Career & Adult Education continued to provide critical programming and services to our adult education students and their families via literacy and basic skills to help ensure our students were successful as they navigated the challenge of distance learning to finish the school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the San Mateo Union High School District recognizes the week of April 7 through April 13, 2024, as Adult Education Week and salutes the teachers, administrators, classified staff, and students of adult education programs in our District and statewide, honoring their efforts, persistence, and accomplishments

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and adopted on the 28th day of March, 2024.



Superintendent

Ligia Andrade Zuniga

President, Board of Trustees