

**San Mateo Union High School District
National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
March 1-31, 2023**

WHEREAS, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (D.D.A.M.), observed throughout March, is a nationwide event to raise acceptance for the inclusion of all people with developmental disabilities and to continue to address the barriers that exist; and

WHEREAS, Recent estimates in the United States indicate that one in six, or about 17%, of children aged 3 through 17 years of age have one or more developmental disabilities, 1.3 billion people globally. DDAM is celebrated to accept the strengths of people with disabilities and their rights to full access and participation in environments that value and honor their talents and abilities; and

WHEREAS, during the 1950s and 1960s, the federal government, with the strong support and advocacy of family associations, began to develop and validate practices for children with disabilities and their families. Previously, denied access to services, education and often placed in restrictive and inhumane conditions in state run, overcrowded institutions—parents of their children with disabilities demanded that attention to the needs of their children be recognized; and

WHEREAS, On January 8, 1974, the People First movement began with the purpose of organizing a convention where people with developmental disabilities could speak for themselves and share ideas, friendship and information. In the course of planning the convention, the small group of planners decided they needed a name for themselves. A number of suggestions had been made when someone said, “I’m tired of being called retarded – we are people first”; and

WHEREAS, On November 29, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142), or the EHA. The EHA guaranteed a free, appropriate public education, or FAPE, to each child with a disability in every state and locality across the country; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, President Reagan proclaimed March as National Developmental Disability Awareness Month to focus awareness on the potential of citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities to work, contribute, and enjoy meaningful lives driven by their choice; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, another landmark year, President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.). The act was amended again to move from the goals of independence, integration, and productivity toward interdependence, inclusion, and recognition of individual contributions; and

WHEREAS, The San Mateo Union High School District acknowledges the intersectionality of disability with all other forms of discrimination and will strive to provide instruction in disability history and the disability rights movement to enhance the understanding of disability by incorporating social, cultural, historical, and legal perspectives, including the connections between disability and other identities. Disability is a fact of the human experience, not the exception; and

WHEREAS, The San Mateo Union High School District prioritizes the support and education of its 189 students served in our Bay Academy and Bay University programs to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Orange is a color symbolizing energy and positivity. It's also the official color of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; and the theme for this year's National Developmental Disabilities Month is "Beyond the Conversation"; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District understands its responsibility to recognize March 2023 as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and strives to honor and include all people with disabilities and consciously promote and foster inclusive, safe, welcoming environments for all.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District on the 9th day of March, 2023

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