

## **The Orange County Board of Education**

### **Resolution to recognize National Autism Awareness Month**

**Whereas,** The Orange County School System is a center for diverse learning where all students are educated to their fullest potential and is a center of our community around which we come together in support of the education of all students; and

**Whereas,** Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disorder typically diagnosed during the first three years of life, impacting the ability of individuals to communicate and interact with others; and

**Whereas,** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health Statistics Report concluded the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorder occurs in one of every 59 children in the United States; and

**Whereas,** it is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups but is more than four times as common among males than females; and

**Whereas,** early diagnosis and intervention programs lead to significantly improved outcomes for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

**Whereas,** Orange County Schools employs qualified and caring individuals who educate and work daily to improve the lives of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

**Whereas,** April is designated as National Autism Awareness Month to increase public mindfulness of Autism Spectrum Disorders and to elevate the ways in which support can be provided to students, family members, educators, and other professionals who teach and care for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder;

**Therefore,** be it resolved that the Orange County Schools Board of Education hereby declares that we

- celebrate National Autism Awareness Month from April 1-30, 2021; and
- celebrate every student in our district and the unique gifts that each individual contributes to our collective; and

- recognize and commend the family members of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder for their dedication in providing for the special needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and
- emphasize the need to begin early intervention services for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in an effort to improve potential outcomes for them; and
- honor the teachers, paraprofessionals, and other educators who possess the desire, caring, and skills necessary to teach, assist and respond to students with special needs, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and who work tirelessly to educate and provide high-quality services for all students with special needs enrolled in the Orange County School District.

Adopted this the 12th day of April, 2021.

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Hillary MacKenzie, Chair  
Orange County Board of Education

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Dr. Monique Felder, Superintendent  
Orange County Schools