

**San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing November 1-30, 2024
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, 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, furthermore, the U.S. has welcomed record numbers of newly arrived immigrant and refugee youth into classrooms from Latin America, Afghanistan, the Middle East and Ukraine, many of whom 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, according to the California Department of Education, in the 2022-23 year there were 246,480 homeless students enrolled in California schools. This was a 9% increase in the homeless student population from the previous school year.

WHEREAS, according to Youth.gov, homeless high school students are more than three times as likely to have attempted suicide within the last year. Additionally, almost 50% of homeless youth reported participating in self-harming behavior.

WHEREAS, according to the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Communities (2022), over 2,600 adolescents in San Mateo County experienced housing instability over the course of the three school years before the pandemic. Students experiencing housing instability were also (1) disproportionately Latinx, Black, and/or English language learners and (2) likely to miss more days of school than their housing stable peers.

WHEREAS, the according to the District's annual census, 43 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, included but not limited to 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; and

WHEREAS, SMUHSD is further committed to the socioemotional health of students experiencing homelessness and who are in foster care through the District's Mental Health services; and

NOW, 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 24th day of October, 2024



Superintendent

Ligia Andrade Zuniga

President, Board of Trustees