

**San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing March 1-31, 2025
As National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

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, or 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, 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, these children were denied access to services, and education and often placed in restrictive and inhumane conditions in state-run, overcrowded institutions. Parents of children with disabilities demanded that attention to the needs of their children be recognized; 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, in every state and locality across the country and later turned into the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1990. This transition expanded eligibility criteria, introduced early intervention services, strengthened parental rights, and enhanced support for students through individualized education and transition planning; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, President Reagan proclaimed March as National Developmental Disability Awareness Month to make certain that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities had access to work, contribute, and enjoy meaningful lives that are driven by their choice; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.). Which was amended again to ensure the goals of independence, integration, and productivity toward interdependence, inclusion, and recognition of individual contributions were realized; 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 88 students served in our Bay Academy at Burlingame, Hillsdale and Mills High Schools and 81 students served the Bay University programs at Burlingame and Capuchino High Schools and the Bay Quest Program at the College of San Mateo to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, through the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (N.A.C.D.D.), D.D.A.M 2025 seeks to highlight the challenges and achievements of people with

developmental disabilities; promoting inclusion and advocacy. The N.A.C.D.D. has adopted the color orange as the official color of D.D.A.M., symbolizing energy and positivity. The San Mateo Union High School District schools will encourage the wearing of orange to spread a positive message for inclusion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District understands its responsibility to recognize March 2025 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.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and adopted by the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District on the 27th day of February 2025.



Superintendent

Robert Griffin

President, Board of Trustees