

Joint Resolution No. 21-67

**San Mateo County Board of Education
and
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools
State of California**

Recognizing November 2021 as National Native American Heritage Month

Whereas, long before Europeans settled in North America, the ancestors of Native Americans were the original, indigenous inhabitants, explorers, and settlers of the lands that have since become the United States; and

Whereas, it is impossible to fully understand the history of California without understanding the history of the indigenous people who have lived within the current boundaries of the state for thousands of years; and

Whereas, California is home to more people of Native American heritage than any other state in the country; and

Whereas, there are currently 109 federally recognized Indian tribes in California and several additional tribes petitioning for federal recognition through the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

Whereas, the Ohlone, a band of distinct groups of indigenous people who spoke similar languages, thrived in the land now known as San Mateo County and other parts of the San Francisco Bay Area; and

Whereas, due to devastating policies and practices of European explorers and missionaries, settlers, and various levels of government, the Ohlone lost the vast majority of their population and land; and

Whereas, National Native American Heritage Month provides San Mateo County educators the opportunity to teach students about the Ohlone people, their role in the history of the county and the Bay Area, and their efforts to keep their culture alive; and

Whereas, Land Acknowledgements, statements often made as part of a public meeting that recognize indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of the land, are one way to express gratitude and appreciation to those whose ancestral territory one resides or meets on;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize November 2021 as National Native American Heritage Month and encourage San Mateo County schools and families to share with young people the history of the indigenous peoples of California, including the Ohlone of San Mateo County, and find time to acknowledge and express gratitude toward the original residents of the land on which we reside.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Passed and Adopted on this
Twentieth Day of October 2021

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

President

