San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing November 1-30, 2025
As National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

WHEREAS, November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. In the 2022-23 school year nearly 1.4 million students in preschool through 12th grade were identified as homeless under the McKinney Vento definition in U.S. public schools; 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, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is a nationwide effort to measure homelessness on a single night in January each year. The latest count from January 2024 indicated 150,000 children under 18 were experiencing homelessness on that night in the United States. HUD's Point-in-Time (PIT) count misses as many as 75% of children, especially those in "hidden" forms of homelessness such as "couch-surfing"; and

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; and

WHEREAS, a 2025 Trevor Project report, The Impact of Houselessness and Food Insecurity on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People, found that 40% of LGBTQ+ young people reported a history of food insecurity, homelessness, or other unmet basic needs. LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness are over twice as likely to have attempted suicide in the past year compared to those with secure housing; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of housing in the Bay Area, paired with income inequality and limited access to affordable childcare, are significant drivers of youth and family homelessness, making it increasingly difficult for working families to secure stable housing even while employed; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Education, In the latest state enrollment data released in June of 2025, California had 230,443 homeless students which represents a 9.3% increase from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, San Mateo County conducts a One Day Homeless Count every two years, with the most recent count in 2024 showing 2,130 people experiencing homelessness in total; and

WHEREAS, according to the San Mateo Union High School District's annual census, 30 of our current students are experiencing homelessness; 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, 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 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, including 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 23rd day of October, 2025

Superintendent

Robert Griffin
President, Board of Trustees