

SAN MATEO COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA (SELPA)

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Resolution Recognizing October 2025 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month

WHEREAS, dyslexia, or developmental dyslexia is a language-based disability that is neurobiological in origin and characterized by difficulties with language skills such as spelling, writing, and pronouncing words; and

WHEREAS, dyslexia is one of the most common neuro-cognitive disorder, representing 80 - 90 percent of all people with learning disabilities and yet often goes undetected; and

WHEREAS, estimates that 5 - 20 percent of the general population have dyslexia, which occurs equally among people from different cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, children skilled in reading perform better in school, attain higher levels of education, experience lower rates of disease, are less likely to be incarcerated or experience poverty, and are more likely to find employment; and

WHEREAS, students with dyslexia experience anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions two to five times more than their peers; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence has repeatedly shown that early identification and intervention improves literacy outcomes for most students with symptoms of dyslexia; and

WHEREAS, students at risk for reading disabilities who received intervention in the first and second grade made gains nearly twice that of children who didn't receive intervention until the third grade; and

WHEREAS, in July 2025, California schools began universal screening in kindergarten through 2nd grade for reading difficulties, including the risk of dyslexia so schools can quickly implement instructional changes to provide students with additional support in learning to read; and

WHEREAS, the early identification of learning difficulties, including dyslexia, through universal screening enables schools to implement evidence-based interventions and targeted supports that promote literacy proficiency and equitable educational outcomes for all students; and

WHEREAS, ensuring a high-quality education for children with disabilities is a critical responsibility for schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo County SELPA Governing Board recognizes Dyslexia Awareness Month and commit to raising awareness of dyslexia and the importance of early identification and intervention.

Adopted this 14th day of October, 2025, by the San Mateo County SELPA.

SIGNED:



Associate Superintendent, SELPA



Board Chair, SELPA Governing Board