

**San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing April 1-30, 2026
As Autism Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, every April, Autism Awareness Month is celebrated, beginning with United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, to increase understanding and acceptance and to foster worldwide support for autistic people. Neurodiversity Celebration Week 2026 took place from March 17-23; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1 in 44 Americans are Autistic, a lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, self-regulation; and

WHEREAS, the neurodiversity paradigm reframes neurological differences, including but not limited to Autism, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia, Tourette syndrome, intellectual disabilities, and other learning, cognitive, and developmental differences, are natural human variations of diversity; and

WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month serves as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the unique gifts and talents of all Autistic learners; and

WHEREAS, students who are neurodivergent contribute unique perspectives, creativity, problem-solving abilities, and strengths that enrich our classrooms, schools, and broader community; and

WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month moves us beyond awareness into solidarity with autistic students by prioritizing accessibility and honoring diverse processing styles. Our District is a safe space where every Neurodivergent student has the support and autonomy they deserve; and

WHEREAS, the District affirms that neurodivergent individuals may experience barriers to learning and participation when educational systems are not designed with diverse learners in mind, and therefore strives to remove systemic obstacles; and

WHEREAS, the District aims to promote a culture of inclusivity, where all students, including those who are neurodivergent, feel valued, respected, and empowered to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the District aims to provide continuous professional learning opportunities for educators to deepen their understanding of Autism and cultivate effective strategies for addressing the diverse needs of students with different forms of neurodivergence through individualized education plans, section 504 plans, and Universal Design for Learning so all students can access a high quality education; and

WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month aims to advocate for policies and practices that promote the rights, dignity, and well-being of individuals with Autism, ensuring equal opportunities and access to meaningful participation in all aspects of life; and

WHEREAS, during Autism Awareness Month, the District aims to promote acceptance, celebrate diversity, and highlight the contributions of individuals with Autism. By uniting in this effort, we aspire to create a more compassionate and inclusive environment where all students

have the opportunity to thrive and succeed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo Union High School District Governing Board hereby proclaims April 2026 as Autism Awareness Month. This proclamation is made to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to fostering environments where students with Autism and other types of neurodivergence can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and adopted on the 26th day of March, 2026.



Superintendent

Teri Chavez

President, Board of Trustees