

**San Mateo Union High School District  
Proclamation Recognizing November 1-30, 2026  
As National Homeless Youth Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. In the 2023–2024 school year, public schools identified more than 1.5 million students experiencing homelessness - the highest number since national reporting began in 2004

**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**, furthermore, the U.S. has welcomed newly arrived immigrant and refugee youth into classrooms including 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**, 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. Their single-night count in January 2025 found that 18% of all homeless people were children under 18. However, because HUD's strict definition mostly counts people in shelters or on the street, it missed more than 85% of the students that public schools recorded including those in "hidden" forms of homelessness such as "couch-surfing"; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that youth experiencing homelessness face significantly elevated risks to their mental and behavioral health. Analysis of the 2023 national Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that high school students experiencing homelessness were more than twice as likely as their peers not experiencing homelessness to report severe suicidality; 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 updated administrative data compiled from the California Department of Education, student homelessness in California has intensified, peaking at 298,254 students. This represents an overall 10% increase since 2018–19, driven largely by enhanced identification efforts by school liaisons and economic challenges following the expiration of pandemic-era funding; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County conducted its biennial Point-In-Time (PIT) count on January 29, 2026. Preliminary findings from the Human Services Agency identified 2,240 people experiencing homelessness, an increase of 110 people from 2024. Of those counted, 1,095 people were in sheltered settings, an increase of 110 from 2024, while 1,145 people were experiencing homelessness in unsheltered settings, the same number as in 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the San Mateo Union High School District's annual census, 34 of our current students are experiencing homelessness; 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 22nd day of October, 2026

  
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Superintendent

Teri Chavez  
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President, Board of Trustees