

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road
Elk Grove, California 95624

RESOLUTION No. 56 DECLARING

**Declaring March 2024 as *Disability Awareness Month* in the
ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Elk Grove Unified School District serves approximately 9,800 students formally identified with disabilities, representing 15% of the total student population; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public and assures that people with disabilities have the same civil rights protections and opportunities as everyone else, similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion; and

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all public schools to address the needs of pupils with disabilities and develop Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) which provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) reflecting the specific needs of each pupil; and

WHEREAS, California has been a leader in furthering disability rights with the enactment of such pioneering legislation as the Disabled Persons Act, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the Fair Employment and Housing Act, Section 11135 of the Government Code, the Lanterman-Petris- Short Act, and the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act; and

WHEREAS, despite the affirmative rights and appreciation for students with disabilities in our federal and state laws, students with disabilities suffer the worst academic and social emotional outcomes in our District, especially students of color and multi language learners; and

WHEREAS, as educational leaders the Board of Education and EGUSD recognize that evidenced-based instructional methods, inclusive practices, restorative justice practices, social and emotional learning, bullying prevention and intervention, mental health supports, and authentic family engagement are proven to substantially improve the educational and equitable outcomes for all students, including students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and EGUSD recognize that our students with disabilities are general education students first, and that every educational, operational, and budget decision we make begins with the belief that students with disabilities have a right to and have the ability to learn alongside their non-disabled peers and equitable and meaningful opportunities to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, *the Board of Education and EGUSD recognize that school climate refers to the norms, values, and expectations that support people to feel physically, socially, and emotionally safe and connected. To be their best, students must feel a sense of connectedness and belonging to their school community. Specifically, schools that are committed to promoting a variety of positive relationships with caring adults will have more connected and engaged students with disabilities; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Board of Education and EGUSD remain committed to work towards equitable outcomes for students with disabilities and support a vision of high expectations for all students and a commitment to learning goals, standards, interventions, and supports that are strong, clear, understood, and put into practice; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Board of Education and EGUSD value and support diversity and inclusion and recognize both the legal right to and the reciprocal benefits of inclusive education; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Board of Education and EGUSD remain committed to ensuring the implementation and efficacy of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), including an early identification and early intervention system to identify and document interventions for students whose performance and/or progress indicates they are at-risk for attendance, behavior, and/or course performance; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *by the Governing Board of the Elk Grove Unified School District that March 2024, be affirmed as Disability Awareness Month where all educational sites can explore opportunities for students and staff to participate in activities and events to become more informed about students with disabilities.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED *that this resolution be distributed to every school in the District.*

Christopher R. Hoffman
Secretary to the Board of Education