

PROCLAMATION
Adult Education Week
April 7 – 13, 2024

WHEREAS, The first recorded adult education class in California was held in the basement of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco in 1856. The class was authorized by the San Francisco Board of Education to teach English to Irish, Italian, and Chinese immigrants. John Swett, who was the first volunteer teacher for the class, later became a State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, Adult Schools have been utilized on numerous occasions to assist the state as it dealt with significant social, political, and economic issues through job training programs during World War II, immigration reform of the 1980s, and most recently, the Great Recession; and

WHEREAS, Adult education in California overcame its biggest challenge as a result of the severe economic crisis facing both the state and the nation in 2008-2009. Funding that was previously reserved for adult education was redistributed to other levels of education in the state, resulting in many adult schools decreasing in size and some closing; and

WHEREAS, over 66% of adult learners enrolled in Adult Schools across California in 2022-23 were between the ages of 25-54, making them very likely to have children in our public school system. The impact of adult education is felt across generations, particularly for early childhood learners who have been characterized as a priority of the Governor and Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Alameda Adult School serves Alameda and the surrounding communities through its collaboration with its community college partners and community-based organizations through the Adult Education system. Alameda Adult School served 612 students in the 2022-23 school year; and

WHEREAS, Alameda Adult School provides significant and varied classes and programs to serve Alameda and the surrounding communities, including: classes in English as a Second Language (ESL), Job Preparation, and High School Diploma and Equivalency; and

WHEREAS, Alameda Adult School served 59 students in the High School Diploma and GED Programs in the 2022-23 school year. The programs help minimize the high school dropout rate. 12 students earned their high school diploma, and 8 students earned their High School Equivalency in the 2022-23 school year; and

WHEREAS, Alameda Adult School served 520 students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program in the 2022-23 school year, and parents enrolled in ESL classes learned how to assist their children with school; and

WHEREAS, Alameda Adult School provides a safe environment for its students free from discrimination or bullying regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, the California Adult Education Program celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, having been established in law in 2014; and

WHEREAS, California Adult Schools will celebrate Adult Education Week during the week of April 7th through April 13th, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Alameda Board of Education and Alameda Unified School District recognize strongly urges the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, and the California Legislature to recognize the important role of K12 Adult Education in addressing the needs of our communities in the short and long term and to increase access to programs and services for the most in-need and not yet reached members of our great State.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the following called vote this 26th day of March, 2024.

AYES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

NOES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

ABSENT: _____ MEMBERS: _____

Jennifer Williams, President
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California

ATTEST:

By: _____
Pasquale Scuderi, Secretary
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California