

SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

STATEMENT ON YOUTH TRIED AS ADULTS

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, it is in the educational interest of the San Bruno Park Elementary School District (“the District”) to promote the livelihoods of youth by advocating for programs and services that prevent youth incarceration, and ensure a quality education is provided to all youth; and

WHEREAS, the District supports evidence-based juvenile justice reform measures that both improve public safety and reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, decades of research and the United States Supreme Court has confirmed that youth are neurologically and developmentally different from adults, and are more likely to be rehabilitated by developmentally appropriate intervention¹; and

WHEREAS, the juvenile justice system was developed to address the specific behavioral, developmental, and mental health needs of youth and are therefore better equipped to hold and treat them after an offense has been committed²; and

WHEREAS, we support efforts to reimagine our juvenile detention facilities to improve learning outcomes; and

WHEREAS, we continue to seek to understand chronic absenteeism, truancy, and system involvement in our District; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the District supports efforts to grant juvenile courts original and exclusive jurisdiction over cases involving youth, and advocate for the ceasing of trying youth as adults, and placing youth in adult programs and facilities.

¹ Miller v. Alabama, 567 U. S. 460 (2012)

² Underwood, L. A.; Washington, A. (2016). Mental Illness and Juvenile Offenders. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

