

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA**

“Resolution Supporting Access to Speech and Debate Education”
June 2, 2025

WHEREAS, the ability to communicate effectively, think critically, and engage in civil discourse is essential for personal and professional success in a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, speech and debate programs cultivate critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills that empower individuals to advocate for themselves and their communities; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that participation in speech and debate improves academic performance, self-confidence, and civic engagement among students of all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, access to speech and debate programs remains a challenge for many students due to socioeconomic barriers, lack of financial resources, and limited opportunities within schools; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Board of Education is committed to fostering educational opportunities that prepare youth to become informed, engaged, and articulate members of society; and

WHEREAS, promoting speech and debate aligns with the Orange County Board of Education’s values of community engagement and academic achievement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Orange County Board of Education that:

1. The Orange County Board of Education recognizes and affirms the importance of speech and debate education as a vital component of youth development.
2. The Orange County Board of Education encourages collaboration among schools, community organizations, and local leaders to expand access to speech and debate opportunities for all students.
3. The Orange County Board of Education urges schools, community centers, and educational institutions to prioritize resources and initiatives that promote public speaking and debate education.

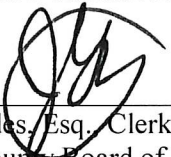
Passed, Approved, and Adopted this 2nd day of June 2025.

AYES: 4
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1
ABSTAINED: 0

State of California)
) ss.
County of Orange)

I, Jorge Valdes, Esq., Clerk of the Board of Education of Orange County, California, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 2nd day of June 2025.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal to this Resolution this 2nd day of June, 2025.



Jorge Valdes, Esq., Clerk of the Board
Orange County Board of Education
Resolution #17-25