



# El Monte Union High School District

*Community Committed to College and Career*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **El Monte Union Recognizes Special Education Day Across Campuses**

**EL MONTE** – The El Monte Union High School District Board of Trustees passed a resolution to recognize Special Education Day across campuses on December 2, an initiative that celebrated students, special education programs and the dedication of teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators to ensure all students are successful.

The resolution was passed with a unanimous vote by the Board during a November 3 meeting. The Special Education Day celebrations will continue throughout December, as school site staff hand out bracelets, shirts and awareness activity packets, aimed at minimizing the stigma of students with disabilities.

“We are giving tokens of appreciation to express our gratitude to our staff members that work with our students, including teachers and paraeducators,” Director of Special Education Leonard Martinez said. “There are so many people that contribute to the overall experience of our students.”

Special education students have access to programs and services throughout the District. One of these specialized programs is Community Based Instruction, where students participate not only in campus life, including classes, assemblies and lunch, but also engage with the surrounding community, allowing them to practice life and social skills. An Adult Transition Program is also offered to students between the ages of 18 and 22 with mild to severe disabilities. The program aids in the transition process from high school to adulthood, and includes coursework geared toward empowering their independence.

Additionally, the District's WorkAbility I Program helps students receive comprehensive pre-employment training and employment placement, with the goal of helping people with disabilities gain valuable work experience and employment opportunities.

“El Monte Union High School District is proud to honor our special education students and faculty,” Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. “As a District, we are proud to provide access to education for all children, allowing them to strengthen their development and potential.”

#### PHOTO CAPTIONS

**EMUHSD Special Education 1:** South El Monte High School special education students celebrate Special Education Day on Dec. 2.

**EMUHSD Special Education 2:** El Monte High special education teacher Raelene Felix and Special Education

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Compliance Officer Allison Smith provide academic services for students with disabilities.

*The vision of the El Monte Union High School District is to empower and motivate our students to be resilient, college and career ready, lifelong learners and contributing members of our global society.*