

Resolution Calling for the Integration of Philosophy Education into School Curricula

WHEREAS democratic governance depends upon the citizenry's collective critical thinking abilities, instantiated in logical reasoning, the weighing of evidence, the detection of misinformation, and constructive engagement in civic deliberation—capacities that the regular practice of philosophy is uniquely suited to cultivate; and

WHEREAS structured classroom philosophy programs, such as those evaluated by the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization, have been proven to increase students' willingness to question assumptions, respect opposing viewpoints, and clearly articulate complex ideas, while also yielding tangible academic benefits, as demonstrated by research from the Education Endowment Foundation showing that primary and secondary students participating in weekly philosophy sessions gained an additional two to four months of academic progress in reading and math over a single year, and by nations like France, which has mandated secondary philosophy education since 1808; and

WHEREAS the Santa Clara County Democratic Party has previously affirmed the importance of preparing young people for active civic life and supported curriculum reflecting the full intellectual development of students—exemplified by its own intern team, whose immersion in local political advocacy testifies to the benefits of thoughtful engagement outside traditional academic subjects;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party endorses the integration of age-appropriate philosophy education into the K-12 public-school curricula of Santa Clara County and California, and calls upon local school boards, the Santa Clara County Office of Education, and the California Department of Education to develop, fund, and implement pilot programs and phased instruction for students of every background; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Santa Clara County Office of Education, to the California Superintendent of Public Instruction, and to the members of the California State Legislature representing any portion of Santa Clara County.

Submitted by Rohan Goyal