

**RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021 AS
“AUTISM AWARENESS” MONTH**

Whereas Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological difference that can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

Whereas Autism Spectrum Disorder affects 1 in 54 children in the United States; and

Whereas Males are almost 4 times more likely to have Autism Spectrum Disorder than females; and

Whereas Autism Spectrum Disorder is estimated to be the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States by The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM); and

Whereas, individuals with autism are individuals first and foremost with unique strengths and abilities; and

Whereas Symptoms and characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in lifelong impacts of an individual’s ability to learn, develop relationships, and understand verbal and nonverbal communication; and

Whereas Early diagnosis and intervention, as well as ongoing support from family, doctors, therapists and educators can positively impact people with Autism Spectrum Disorder to achieve better outcomes and a higher quality of life; and

Whereas People with Autism Spectrum Disorder should have access to appropriate services throughout their lifetime, so that they may achieve their greatest potential and lead happy and productive lives fully included within their communities,

Whereas, the School Board of Santa Rosa County prides itself on being pupil centered, and where our schools and community are committed to developing programs, and providing services that meet the diverse academic and social needs of all of our student body, including those with autism;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board of Santa Rosa County, Florida, does hereby proclaim the month of April as “Autism Awareness Month” and urges all personnel and students to participate in Autism Awareness Month activities, in order to become better educated on the strengths and needs of those with autism spectrum disorders.