

1 [June Jordan School for Equity Day - August 28, 2026]

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3 **Resolution commending June Jordan School for Equity (JJSE) for its outstanding**
4 **contribution to educational equity, youth leadership, education, and community**
5 **empowerment; and declaring August 28, 2026, as June Jordan School Day for Equity in**
6 **the City and County of San Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, June Jordan School for Equity opened in 2003 as a result of the advocacy
9 of students, educators, families, and community members with the vision of creating a school
10 where every young person is seen, heard, valued, and empowered; and

11 WHEREAS, Located in the Excelsior, JJSE is one of the three public high schools in
12 the southeast side of San Francisco, serving students predominantly living in the Excelsior,
13 Visitacion Valley, Bayview-Hunters Point, and the Mission; and

14 WHERE, Historically, young people living in the southeast neighborhoods face
15 significant socio-economic obstacles to academic success; and

16 WHEREAS, JJSE serves working-class and low-income communities of color,
17 improving equitable access to education and narrowing the achievement gap with private-
18 school-quality education in a free public school; and

19 WHEREAS, JJSE is named in the honor of acclaimed black feminist poet, educator,
20 and activist June Jordan; and

21 WHEREAS, The school carries forward her legacy of courage, critical thinking, love for
22 and belief in youth, and the endless commitment to social justice and liberation; and

23 WHEREAS, JJSE was intentionally and thoughtfully designed to be a small public
24 school specializing in social justice, restorative practices, youth voice, and academic access;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, Students build key competencies and life skills including learning
2 accountability, developing a deep analysis of the world oppression, and making community
3 impact; and

4 WHEREAS, Students are equipped to be agents of positive change and prepared for
5 college, and 100% of JJSE graduates have a strong and thoughtful post-secondary plan; and

6 WHEREAS, JJSE’s mission and values are grounded in social justice with emphasis
7 on community, social justice, and independent thinking; and

8 WHEREAS, Their mission and vision prepare young people to live with respect,
9 integrity, courage, and humility—empowering them with skills to enact positive change; and

10 WHEREAS, Consequently, pedagogy at JJSE is intentionally designed to help students
11 understand the forces of marginalization and challenge interpersonal, institutional, and
12 internalized oppression; these factors have long prevented many students from meeting their
13 full potential, especially those from working-class communities of color; and

14 WHEREAS, JJSE educators work tirelessly every day to nurture students’ academic
15 development, social-emotional growth, cultural identity, and community leadership; and

16 WHEREAS, The school continues to create deep relationships between students,
17 families, teachers, counselors, and staff, creating a learning environment where young people
18 are known personally, supported holistically, and where care for each and every student is
19 genuinely practiced; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2005, in the face of severe budget cuts, the San Francisco Unified
21 School District (SFUSD) placed JJSE on a list of schools that may face closure, due to low
22 enrollment, despite the fact that JJSE is a small school by design; and

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1 WHEREAS, Following strong community backlash at the possibility of JJSE closing, in
2 2007, the San Francisco Board of Education passed the Small Schools by Design policy,
3 affirming SFUSD'S commitment to supportive policy for intentionally small schools that
4 increase options for underserved families and address the achievement gap; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2024, in the face of a \$400 million budget deficit, SFUSD included JJSE
6 on a list of 13 schools that meet their criteria for closing or merging; and

7 WHEREAS, JJSE is a vital academic institute and community anchor deeply rooted in
8 dignity, belonging, cultural affirmation, and collective responsibility; and

9 WHEREAS, JJSE exemplifies the commitment and promise of public education that is
10 centered in community, relationships, cultural responsiveness, and grounded in equity and
11 love for youth; and

12 WHEREAS, Research indicates that small schools like JJSE can narrow the
13 achievement gap and has many benefits compared to large schools, including: better
14 attendance, stronger academic achievement, fewer failed courses, fewer behavioral incidents,
15 less violence, lower dropout rates, and higher graduation rates; and

16 WHEREAS, In today's political climate where ethnic studies, equitable education, and
17 anti-racist practices are regularly at risk, JJSE holds firm in its commitment for equitable, high
18 quality, and holistic education; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes June Jordan School for
20 Equity's vital role as a small school advancing educational equity, fostering cross-cultural
21 understanding, empowering youth leadership, and strengthening community bonds; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes
23 August 28, 2026, as June Jordan School for Equity Day in the City and County of San
24 Francisco; and be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
2 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the San Francisco Unified School District Board
3 of Education.

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