



**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS the health and viability of our community is dependent upon the investment in our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS in 2019 there were 13,674 reported victims of child abuse and neglect in Oregon, of which 1,439 were victims in Marion and Polk Counties combined; and

WHEREAS we encourage all members of the community to become aware of the issues involved in the prevention of harm to young people so that the next generation will be safe, strong, and successful; and

WHEREAS by strengthening families and providing safe, stable, and nurturing environments that are free from violence, abuse, and neglect, opportunities are created for children's optimal growth and success, ensuring a secure future for our communities, where the needs of children are a priority and the needs of families are met; and

WHEREAS passage of Senate Bill 415, effective January 1, 2020, added school board directors to the list of mandatory reporters of child abuse; and

WHEREAS the school board amended Board Governance Policy 4 Board Member Code of Conduct to state: "Board members acknowledge their responsibility as mandatory reporters of child abuse and will educate themselves on requirements through district trainings and/or other means," and by so doing, board members demonstrate their individual and collective commitment to the safety of children in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Salem-Keizer School District 24J asks everyone to join together in protecting our children and does hereby proclaim April 2021 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**.

Satya Chandragiri, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

April 13, 2021

Date