Board Meeting – March 3, 2020

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

B. Adoption of Joint Superintendent Board Resolution No. 17 to Ensure a Complete Count of Los Angeles County School Districts' Communities, Families, and Students in the 2020 Census

The Superintendent further recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 17 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 3, 2020; and further calls on the 80 School Districts to engage in outreach efforts for the 2020 Census to ensure a complete count.

Board Resolution No. 17 is shown on the following page.
Adoption of Joint Superintendent Board Resolution No. 17 to Ensure a Complete Count of Los Angeles County School Districts’ Communities, Families, and Students in the 2020 Census

WHEREAS, the United States decennial Census, which is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, enumerates every person residing in the country regardless of citizenship status, and is fundamental to a fair and representative democracy;

WHEREAS, the United States Census has critical implications for the state of California, and determines its allocation of seats in the House of Representatives and 900 billion dollars in federal funding;

WHEREAS, the California Legislative Affairs Office determined California was “undercounted” in the previous Census, costing California at least two billion dollars in federal funds over ten years and a seat in the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, California is home to 13% of the child population of the United States, which includes nearly half of all children living in immigrant families and the highest number of Dual Language Learners / English Language Learners in the country (Migration Policy Institute);

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, Los Angeles County is the hardest to count county in the country and home to populations that are most frequently undercounted, including children under six, youth, immigrants, renters, homeless populations, those with Limited-English proficiency, as well as those who live in places where enumerators are unable to gain entry, including apartment buildings;

WHEREAS, the threatened use of the citizenship question on the questionnaire, heightened immigration law enforcement, increased anti-immigrant sentiment and federal rules punishing immigrants for using certain public services in recent years have created an environment of fear and distrust of the government in immigrant communities. These sentiments exacerbate an almost certain undercount;

WHEREAS, a fair and accurate count on the 2020 Census will help ensure the Los Angeles County’s communities, families, and students are represented in our democracy and receive critical services and supports across education;

WHEREAS, our schools depend on Federal dollars determined by Census Data that go to vital programs, such as Early Head Start and Head Start; Title I grants; Special Education; Title IV-E Foster Care; Child Care and Development Block Grant and various health programs;

WHEREAS, a full understanding of the Census as a participatory process, its safety and constitutionality is of utmost importance because of its implications in the history of the United States;
WHEREAS, education specialists at LACOE assisted Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) to design and launch a specialized curriculum regarding Census for grades 5th, 8th, 11th, and 12th with different aspects of U.S. History, Geography, and Principles of American Democracy, and Economics; and,

WHEREAS, The California Complete Count approved $2,361,576.82 to implement an outreach plan crafted by LACOE staff to ensure a complete count of students and families residing within the hardest to count regions of LA County in the 2020 Census. This plan integrates the 2020 Census into the existing programs and initiatives that directly connect with hard-to-count families, and includes: working with California’s Complete Count Committee and with We Count LA, a collaborative of dozens of organizations across LA County focused on hard-to-count populations for outreach activities and support, participating in the Countywide Outreach Complete Count Committee and encouraging all 80 School Districts to use the Count Me In! Census curriculum in their schools, and involve their student body and parents in civic engagement activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and County Board of Education encourage all school boards, superintendents, principals, teachers, school staff, and parent organizations to relay the importance of the Census to parents, students, and community members to ensure everyone is counted to maximize political representation and funding appropriations throughout the County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and County Board of Education call upon all 80 School Districts to use the Count Me In! Census curriculum in their schools and to support civic engagement activities; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and County Board of Education will attend and support activities that maximize opportunities to ensure a complete count of all county students and families in 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and County Board of Education shall publicize and promote the completion of the Census forms by LACOE staff on April 1, 2020, Census Day.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of March 2020, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

James Cross
Board President