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 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 addition of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census Questionnaire has created an environment of fear and distrust in immigrant communities;

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, Los Angeles County Superintendent has directed LACOE Staff to develop and adopt an outreach plan to ensure a complete count of students and their families residing within the County in the 2020 Census. This plan shall integrate the 2020 Census into the existing LACOE programs and initiatives that directly connect with hard to count families, and will include: working with California’s Complete Count Committee for outreach activities; participating in the Countywide Outreach Complete Count Committee to avoid duplication of efforts, identify gaps, and coordinate outreach 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 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.

ADOPTED this 16 day of April 2019 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

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

Thomas A. Saenz
Board President