

March 21, 2023

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – March 21, 2023

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- E. Adoption of Board Resolution 40: Recognizing Earth Day as April 22, 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 40 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 21, 2023; and further recommends that the County Board proclaims April 22, 2023 as Earth Day and the month of April 2023 as Earth Month and encourages districts and communities to observe Earth Day and Earth Month with appropriate programs and activities.

Board Resolution No. 40 is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE communication to all 80 districts to encourage districts, schools, and partner organizations to observe this month and with appropriate programs and activities
- Highlight LACOE's leadership and commitment to environmental justice on social media, such our Green Initiative and reduced carbon footprint through excellence and innovation around remote work and various other efforts like outdoor learning

BOARD RESOLUTION

No. 40: 2022-2023

Earth Day (April 22) and Earth Month (April)

- WHEREAS,** in 1987, the United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”; and
- WHEREAS,** the three pillars of sustainability are: social, economic and environmental. All three pillars must work in conjunction with providing a balanced approach; and
- WHEREAS,** there is extensive consensus within the scientific community that human activities contribute to increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Increased emissions result in a greater threat of climate change to the Earth and this threat can only be solved by combined human effort; and
- WHEREAS,** the negative impacts of climate change, including public health and economic consequences, have a disproportionate impact on chronically underserved communities and communities of color; and
- WHEREAS** implementation of sustainable practices on school campuses, capital investments to improve energy efficiency, and other environmentally mindful purchasing decisions can yield significant cost savings for schools; and
- WHEREAS,** as we head into Earth Month in April, we acknowledge that Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970. This day marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement, which has been celebrated annually. This also led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Act; and
- WHEREAS,** Earth Month has become a time for Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) staff to gather in an annual appreciation of Earth through Green Team events; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE staff will kick off Earth Month with a podcast focused on green team efforts and sustainability at schools on April 5 and a month-long recycling drive; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE will hold its second annual symposium on environmental sustainability for its 80 school districts and all constituents on April 24. The Green Schools Symposium will be held at Eagle Rock Elementary School and will feature Outdoor Learning Environments and best practices for integrating environmental sustainability into student learning; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board of Education acknowledges the necessity of promoting activities that reduce our environmental footprint. Despite immediate challenges, it is in our collective best interest to create an environment where all humans can thrive now and in future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board of Education acknowledges the importance of the school nutrition environment, policies, and practices to influence students' food choices that impact personal and planetary health. Local Educational Agencies and schools play a key role in addressing climate change through nutrition education, increasing access to healthy climate-friendly school meals, and reducing food waste; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board of Education is dedicated to promoting healthy relationships and advocating for the social-emotional needs of all students, acknowledging that mental health wellness is one aspect of the whole child. The Board acknowledges that the environment is one of the key determinants of mental health outcomes, as studies have shown, and that climate change as a global environmental threat creates psychological distress and anxiety about the future; and


WHEREAS, LACOE is proud of the Juvenile Court Schools, Environmental Charter School, Odyssey Charter School, the Los Angeles County High School of the Arts, International Polytechnic High School and the Outdoor and Marine Science Field Study Program for their commitment to environmental awareness throughout their curriculum; and


WHEREAS, LACOE commends educators who share our responsibility to protect our shared environment by leading students in environmental awareness; and

WHEREAS, environmental education in Los Angeles County is a collective responsibility that is best promoted through strategic, aligned partnerships that benefit students, community, educators and administrators; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaims April 22, 2023 as Earth Day and the month of April 2023 as Earth Month and encourages districts and communities to observe Earth Day and Earth Month with appropriate programs and activities.

ADOPTED this 21st day of March 2023 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.


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


James Cross
Board President