

April 18, 2023

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – April 18, 2023

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- E. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 45 to Recognize May 2023 as National Foster Care Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 45 as part of the regular County Board meeting on April 18, 2023; and further recommends that the Board recognize May 2023, as National Foster Care Month in order to recognize the unique needs of children and youth in foster care and increase both the awareness of the issue and their commitment to helping these young people succeed.

Resolution No. 45 is attached.

Next Steps:

- Send LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe May as National Foster Care Month with appropriate programs and activities.
- Invite school districts, partners from child welfare/probation and community-based organizations to participate in professional development opportunities and access resources for students in foster care on the LACOE, Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program webpage.
- LACOE, Foster Youth Services Program will host an Inaugural Scholarship Luncheon on Friday, May 12, 2023 (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.). Four students will be recognized and awarded scholarships, thanks to the generous support of the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation.

BOARD RESOLUTION
No. 45: 2022-2023

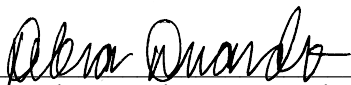
Adoption of Board Resolution No. 45: to recognize May 2023, as
National Foster Care Month

- WHEREAS nearly 424,000 children and youth live in foster care and are among the most vulnerable populations; and
- WHEREAS Los Angeles County is home to approximately 33,000 children and youth in foster care; and nearly 24,000 of those children and youth are school aged; and
- WHEREAS students in foster care are identified as a subgroup under the Local Control Funding Formula and Local Control Accountability Plan due to being one the lowest academically achieving group of students in California; and
- WHEREAS students in foster care continue to face challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic; housing and food insecurities for our older youth remain a topic of need; a steady rise in the number of referrals to our local child welfare agency is taking place; and
- WHEREAS Wellbeing and Support Services and Educational Program Departments provide support to vulnerable, at-promise students in a variety of settings focused on improving their well-being and educational outcomes; and
- WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Office of Education serves as the Technical Assistance Program, providing subject matter expertise to support continuous improvement efforts and foster collaboration between school districts, community partners and county office Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs throughout California, which aim to mitigate the trauma students in foster care have experienced and empower them to succeed academically; and
- WHEREAS the first National Foster Care Month was celebrated in 1988 when the National Foster Parent Association persuaded United States Senator Strom Thurmond to introduce a resolution proclaiming the month of May as National Foster Care Month; and
- WHEREAS for 2023 the Children’s Bureau created the theme of “Strengthening Minds, Uplifting Families,” which highlights the need for a holistic and culturally responsive approach to supporting our children and youth while in care; and
- WHEREAS organizations across the nation have declared May as Foster Care Month to recognize resource parents, relative/nonrelative caregivers, volunteers, mentors, advocates, child welfare representatives, and others within the community and to increase awareness of the urgent needs of children and youth in foster care; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Office of Education will demonstrate its commitment to improve the educational outcomes of children and youth in foster care by supporting National Foster Care Month events throughout Los Angeles County during the month of May in 2023; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education, hereby declares May as National Foster Care Month and hereby requests that elected officials in the County of Los Angeles and all of its citizens recognize the unique needs of children and youth in foster care and increase both the awareness of the issue and their commitment to helping these young people succeed.

ADOPTED this 18th day of April 2023, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



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



James Cross
Board President