

May 16, 2023

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – May 16, 2023

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 51 to Recognize Immigrant Heritage Month in June 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 51 as part of the regular County Board meeting on May 16, 2023 and further recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Education declare June as Immigrant Heritage Month and encourages education communities to observe this month by acknowledging the often difficult journeys of immigrants and understanding the circumstances that have led people throughout history to migrate for family reunification and safety; and to support efforts to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants and highlight the many contributions and achievements of immigrants that inspire our communities in Los Angeles County.

Resolution No. 51 is attached.

**Next Steps:**

1. LACOE will share resources and information out to LEAs in recognition of Immigrant Heritage month.
2. LACOE will offer the following professional development opportunities that support immigrant students, some of whom are also language learners, but all of whom are entitled to specific differentiated supports:
  - Structuring District and School Site Programs to Meet the Needs of Newcomer Students - May 19, 2023
  - Title III 101 (Program for Immigrants and English Learners) – November 28, 2023
  - Creating Conditions for Dual Language Learners to Thrive In Early Education – September 26, 2023 and November 14, 2023
  - English Language Development (ELD) for Elementary Teachers and Administrators Institute – September 12, 2023, October 26, 2023, and November 9, 2023
  - English Language Development (ELD) for Secondary Teachers and Administrators Institute – October 12, 2023, October 26, 2023, and November 9, 2023

3. LACOE's MAS Unit has also curated the following resources in support of students who are also newcomers and/or refugees:
  - [Newcomer Resources for Distribution](#)
  - [New Arrival Support Resources](#)
  
4. Recommended texts that illuminate lived experiences of immigrant children, youth, and families:
  - “Solito”: a Child’s Solo Migration - Poet Javier Zamora recounts his experience traveling from El Salvador to the United States by himself at age nine.
  - “Para Chicas Fuertes De Corazón Tierno Y Piel Canela” – una carta de amor para mujeres de color.
  - “Make a Poem Cry” – Creative writing from California’s Lancaster Prison, Kenneth E. Hartman and Luis J. Rodriguez (editors) – The tamale recipe in this book is a testament to the power of our culture and traditions.
  - “The Wandering Song” – Central American writing in the United States, Leticia Hernandez Linares, Ruben Martinez, and Hector Tobar (editors) – this book is the first collection to showcase the voices of Central American writers living in the United States. The readers learn directly from their point of view.
  - “The Coiled Serpent” – Poets Arising from the Cultural Quakes and Shifts of Los Angeles – This anthology features the vitality and variety of verse in the City of Angels, a city of poets. Featuring over 150 Los Angeles-area poets, the collection encompasses the many experiences and inequities of life in Los Angeles.
  - “Somewhere We Are Human” – Authentic Voices on Migration, Survival and New Beginnings – Reyna Grande, Sonia Guinansaca.

## BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 51: 2022-2023

Immigrant Heritage Month (June 2023)

- WHEREAS** In 2019, the U.S. Congress recognized the month of June as "Immigrant Heritage Month," a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions immigrants and their children have made in shaping the history, strengthening the economy and enriching the culture of the United States. Immigrants and their children played important roles in the development of culture and art in America, just as they have in science and academic institutions. The presence of immigrants and their children has helped inspire American institutions in the direction of increasing openness.
- WHEREAS** World Refugee Day is commemorated on June 20 to honor the strength and courage of refugees from around the world and to mark the signing of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the commitment to protect this vulnerable group by the United Nations. Refugees and immigrants have perseverance and strength that can impress and amaze those who hear their stories. For refugees and immigrants, their struggles are not over once they reach our shores; they face many barriers such as difficulty speaking and learning English, raising children and helping them succeed in school, securing work, housing, accessing services, transportation and cultural barriers.
- WHEREAS** On June 15, 1982, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled on Plyler v. Doe that "all children residing in the U.S. should have the opportunity to live full lives and engage meaningfully in our society and economy," improving the lives of countless immigrant children by providing them access to K-12 education regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents. However, many newcomers face a school system that is not well prepared and equipped to meet their academic, social and emotional needs.
- WHEREAS** Los Angeles County continues to receive and host newcomer populations including 15% of all Afghan parolees resettled in the State of California and is starting to receive Ukrainians and other immigrants in need of humanitarian protection.
- WHEREAS** 22% of children in Los Angeles County live in an immigrant household. As of 2018, in Los Angeles County 55.5% of children live with foreign-born parents. Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey summary files and public use microdata (Dec. 2019).
- WHEREAS** LACOE continues to provide professional development, model policies, culturally responsive practices, develops meaningful partnerships and community engagement with school districts to ensure all children are welcomed with dignity into our communities and the organizations that serve them.

**WHEREAS** LACOE has been supporting districts with instructional programs that provide English language development (ELD) instruction to support children's linguistic capabilities and social-emotional learning (SEL) to increase emotional competencies and to respond to the reunification of unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children with family members in Los Angeles County. LACOE's Immigrant Relations program supports Los Angeles County School districts, parents and students with timely information and responds to school needs around immigration policies.

**WHEREAS** LACOE is committed to protecting the constitutional right of all children to receive a free public education, regardless of their immigration status and to remove barriers to enrollment. LACOE's Immigrant Relations program promotes school district compliance to ensure that all children regardless of their immigration status have access to education and resources;

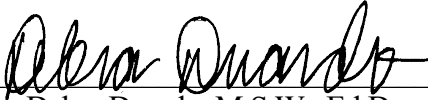
**WHEREAS** through its Immigrant Relations Program, Multilingual Academic Support Unit, CalNEW, Wellbeing and Support Services, Migrant Education and other programs, LACOE ensures immigrant and refugee students are provided safe and welcoming learning environments and have the needed resources to enroll in school, feel safe and supported and be healthy and engaged in school; we facilitate the navigation of services for immigrant communities in the Los Angeles County by creating meaningful connections between nonprofit agencies and schools.

**WHEREAS** LACOE's Immigrant Relations program ensures that districts, students, caregivers and communities are empowered with culturally and linguistically relevant resources and promotes school compliance to policies that protect students and their families.

**WHEREAS** LACOE celebrates the diversity of its workforce and recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of immigrants and refugees among its staff.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby declares June as Immigrant Heritage Month and encourages education communities to observe this month by acknowledging the often difficult journeys of immigrants and understanding the circumstances that have led people throughout history to migrate for family reunification and safety; and to support efforts to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants and highlight the many contributions and achievements of immigrants that inspire our communities in Los Angeles County.

**ADOPTED** this 16th day of May, 2023, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

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

  
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James Cross  
Board President