

September 19, 2023

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – September 19, 2023

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- G. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 12 to Recognize National Dropout Prevention During the Month of October 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board take action and approve Board Resolution No. 12 and recognize October 2023 as National Dropout Prevention Month to increase awareness of the long-term effects on students, the economy and society, challenging our nation to become better informed about the strategies and programs to prevent students from leaving school before graduation

Board Resolution No. 12 follows on the next page.

Next Steps:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this month with grade level and developmentally appropriate programs and student support.
- Highlight the month at appropriate Communities of Practice to share resources and best practices and to invite school districts to participate in professional development opportunities.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 12:2023-24

To Recognize National Dropout Prevention Month During the Month of October 2023

- WHEREAS,** progress has been consistent in reducing school dropout rates, with California's graduation rate decreasing from 9.4 to 7.8 percent along with Los Angeles County's rates decreasing from 9.5 to 8.31 percent in the 2021-2022 school year, significant achievement gaps continue to persist among certain groups of students including American Indian or Alaska Native, African American, Hispanic or Latino, Students Placed in Foster Care and Student Experiencing Homelessness, English Learners and Students with Disabilities
- WHEREAS,** the Novel Coronavirus of 2019 (COVID-19) required the California Department of Education and the California Department of Public Health to collaborate on providing guidance based on the transmission and severity of the effects of COVID-19 on students and staff for in-person instruction
- WHEREAS,** varied virtual instructional platforms, such as distance learning and independent study, utilized over the past three years, exposed additional gaps in accessibility;
- WHEREAS,** students placed in foster care and students experiencing homelessness are two at-risk student populations with the highest dropout rates and the lowest graduation rates of all comparison student groups;
- WHEREAS,** California's legislators recognized the need to allow at-risk students an extended opportunity to complete their high school graduation requirements in five years;
- WHEREAS,** as a result of instituting the fifth year option, progress has been consistent in increasing graduation rates across California from 82.2 percent to 84.9 percent, while Los Angeles County's graduation rate significantly increased from 84.2 percent to 87.3 percent in the 2020-2021 school year for all at-risk students;
- WHEREAS,** in the 2021-2022 school year 61.1 percent of students placed in foster care graduated high school in four years compared with 86.1 percent of their non-foster peers;

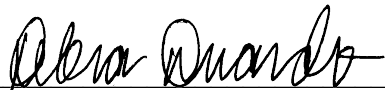
- WHEREAS,** in the 2021-2022 school year 60.3 percent of students placed in foster care graduated high school in five years compared with 86.1 percent of their non-foster peers;
- WHEREAS,** in the 2021-2022 school year 74.4 percent of students experiencing homelessness graduated high school in four years compared with 86.1 percent of their housed peers;
- WHEREAS,** in the 2021-2022 school year 74.1 percent of students experiencing homelessness graduated high school in five years compared with 86.1 percent of their housed peers;
- WHEREAS,** students in foster care and students experiencing homelessness are more likely to face educational barriers and the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program and the Child Welfare & Attendance Unit, which oversees Homeless Education works collaboratively with county agencies and partners to improve academic outcomes and ensure successful transitions to adulthood through college and career pathways;
- WHEREAS,** the Child Welfare & Attendance Unit has expanded staffing resources to better support districts and charter schools across Los Angeles County to address chronic absenteeism and other issues that impact student attendance, which is often the first step to a student disconnecting and dropping out of school;
- WHEREAS,** students who leave school before graduation are typically qualified for only about 10 percent of the economy's jobs, are more likely to risk involvement in the criminal justice system, are more likely to rely on various sources of public assistance and welfare, have poorer health and shorter life expectancies than high school graduates and are less likely to vote;
- WHEREAS,** the decision to drop out of school is not due to one single factor, but multiple and complex family, economic, social and emotional factors and is the result of a process that often begins years before the actual event;
- WHEREAS,** communities that understand the lifelong impact for students who leave school before graduation and that work together to support at-risk students can help address the problem;

WHEREAS, early, effective dropout prevention initiatives are the result of communitywide efforts that involve families, businesses, faith-based organizations and schools; and

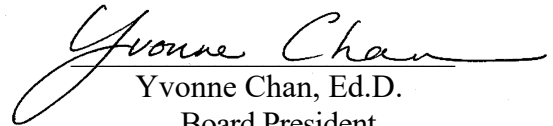
WHEREAS, public, private and nonprofit entities need to raise awareness of these issues and encourage all students to stay in school for a brighter future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and County Board of Education recognize October 2023 as National Dropout Prevention Month to increase awareness of the long-term effects on students, the economy and society, challenging our nation to become better informed about the strategies and programs to prevent students from leaving school before graduation.

ADOPTED this 19th day of September 2023, by the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



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



Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.
Board President