

October 17, 2023

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – October 17, 2023

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

C. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 18 to Recognize November 2023 as National Native American Heritage Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board take action and approve Board Resolution No. 18 and hereby encourages public officials, educator, librarians and school communities to observe this month with appropriate program, ceremonies and activities; hereby support local education agencies in their efforts to commemorate Native American heritage by providing instructional and community resources, relevant research and promising practices during National Native American Heritage Month and throughout the year.

Board Resolution No. 18 follows on the next page.

Next Steps:

- LACOE will offer the following professional development opportunities regarding the inclusion of Native American Studies in Ethnic Studies and American history courses:
 - a. Ethnic Studies Three-Day Institute, October 17-19, 2023 at the Los Angeles County Office of Education.
 - b. Native American Studies Ethnic Studies Symposium, April 23, 2024 at Kuruvungna Village Springs in Los Angeles.
- LACOE will make Land Acknowledgement resources available for LEAs that wish to incorporate Land Acknowledgements as a step towards truth and reconciliation, and as a way to show solidarity with our Native American community.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 18: 2023-2024

National Native American Heritage Month

- WHEREAS** “National Native American Heritage Month” celebrates and recognizes the Indigenous peoples who were the original inhabitants of what is now the United States (U.S.); and
- WHEREAS** in 1976, U.S. President Gerald Ford proclaimed November 10-16 as “Native American Awareness Week,” and in 1986 the U.S. Congress authorized and requested the U.S. President to proclaim the week of November 23-30, 1986, as “American Indian Week”; and
- WHEREAS** beginning in 1990, the month of November was designated as “National American Indian Heritage Month,” and the proclamation of U.S. President George H. W. Bush in 1990 acknowledged that Indigenous peoples “developed rich, thriving cultures, as well as their own systems of social order” before contact with European settlers and endorsed self-determination for Indigenous peoples by reaffirming “support for increased Indian control over tribal government affairs”; and
- WHEREAS** U.S. President Barack Obama designated each November as “National Native American Heritage Month”; and
- WHEREAS** the Governor of the State of California signed bills on “Native American Day” September 25, 2020 to strengthen and clarify the process to repatriate Native American remains and artifacts (AB 275), increase Native American voting rights (AB 2314) and reduce the rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (AB 3099); and
- WHEREAS** the State of California is home to nearly 200 Native American tribes and Indigenous peoples remain actively engaged in cultural revitalization, resource protection and self-determination within every region of California; and
- WHEREAS** the County of Los Angeles is located on lands sacred to Native Californians including the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh peoples; and
- WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Office of Education seeks to honor the Indigenous peoples who have inhabited this place for generations and endeavors to be a good steward of the land and waterways for future generations; and
- WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Office of Education recognizes that systematic denial of Native American knowledge, cultural authority and historical experiences perpetuates the colonial structure of oppression; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Office of Education recognizes indigenous lands and peoples through a land acknowledgement at celebrations and public meetings of the Los Angeles County Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize “National Native American Heritage Month” and support opportunities for all students, staff and members of the public to recognize indigenous histories and cultures; and celebrate contributions to American society.

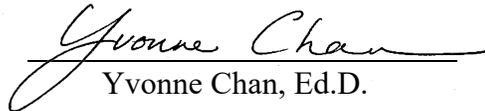
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby encourage public officials, educators, librarians and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby support local education agencies in their effort to commemorate Native American heritage by providing instructional and community resources, relevant research and promising practices during “National Native American Heritage Month” and throughout the year.

ADOPTED this 17th day of October 2023 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



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



Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.
Board President