

November 14, 2023

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – November 14, 2023

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

D. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 20: National Special Education Day, December 2, 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 20. The Superintendent further recommends that the County Board proclaim December 2, 2023 as National Special Education Day and calls on districts, schools and community organizations in Los Angeles County to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities and to help spread the important message that people with disabilities deserve a high-quality education and appropriate support services.

The Board resolution is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- LACOE's Division of Special Education is available to support all LEAs, Charter Schools, SELPAs and community partners with professional development, training, technical assistance and thought partnering. We are also the California State Special Education Resource Lead for students with the most extensive support needs and participate in supporting several early learning inclusion initiatives.
- In celebration and commemoration of National Special Education Day, DSE will have an updated Accessibility Passport, with tips for helping all students access academics, available in print or electronically.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 20: 2023-24

National Special Education Day, December 2, 2023

- WHEREAS**, Special Education Day marks the anniversary of the nation’s first federal special education law, signed by President Gerald Ford on December 2, 1975; and
- WHEREAS**, Special Education Day began in 2005, marking the 30th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and
- WHEREAS**, the California Department of Education encourages the recognition of Dec. 2nd as National Special Education Day; and
- WHEREAS**, LACOE recognizes the importance that words matter and from here on will use people-first language, putting the person before the disability; and
- WHEREAS**, LACOE values all students with and without disabilities and recognizes all students have a right to engage in learning, benefit from meaningful instruction, have friends and be full members of their school communities; and
- WHEREAS**, public schools must support ALL students: infants, children and young adults with disabilities, while providing essential special education services that empower students to achieve their full academic potential; and
- WHEREAS**, LACOE's Division of Special Education and LACOE’s Special Education Local Plan Areas provide technical support, collaboration and professional development to school staff who serve students with disabilities – with a core focus on equity, access, and inclusion; and
- WHEREAS**, LACOE promotes inclusion and belonging; we believe that all students eligible for special education are general education students first and deserve to be educated in the general education environment alongside nondisabled peers with access to all school programs and activities; and
- WHEREAS**, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has made learning difficult for many students, particularly for students with disabilities; LACOE’s Division of Special Education has continued to remain at the forefront of the application of new legislation, case law and evidence-based practices to deliver professional development offerings and guidance which address learning loss, continued academic growth and the understanding of student behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Special Education Day is an opportunity to acknowledge the continued need to work together as educators, parents, families, administrators and staff to provide all special education students with the highest educational experience; and

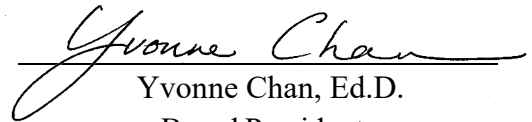
WHEREAS, Special Education Day is a time to celebrate students with disabilities in Los Angeles County and their families, teachers and school/district administrators; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaims December 2, 2023 as National Special Education Day and calls on districts, schools and community organizations in Los Angeles County to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities and to help spread the important message that people with disabilities deserve a high-quality education and appropriate support services.

ADOPTED this 14th day of November, 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