

Board Meeting – November 14, 2023

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

E. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 21: International Migrants Day, December 18, 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 21. The Superintendent further recommends that the County Board declare December 18 as International Migrants Day and encourages districts and communities to observe this day by commemorating the often difficult journeys of immigrants, honoring the contributions made by migrants worldwide and promoting respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Board resolution is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools, and community organizations to observe this day by commemorating the often-difficult journeys of immigrants, honoring the contributions made by migrants worldwide and promoting respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- LACOE's Immigrant Relations Program will share the following list of books with districts:
 - A Nation of Immigrants, by John F. Kennedy (Young Adult)
 - What is a Refugee? By Elisa Gravel (Ages 3-7)
 - The Name Jar, by Yangsook Choi (Ages 4-8)
 - Dreamers, by Yuyi Morales (Ages 4-8)
 - When Stars Are Scattered, by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed (Ages 8-12)
 - Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card, by Sara Saedi (Young Adult)
- LACOE's Immigrant Relations Program will share with school districts, stakeholders, and community members on upcoming events that support International Migrants Day.
- Encourage school districts to incorporate International Migrants Day activities such as learning more about students' native country (food, art, music, sports, etc.) and other school assignments that promote understanding, empathy, and respect for migrants.
- Use of social media platforms to raise awareness about International Migrants Day. Create dedicated hashtags, share informative posts, success stories of migrants, and relevant news articles.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 21: 2023-24

International Migrants Day (December 18, 2023)

WHEREAS, on December 18, 1990, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and to bring awareness that Migrants are not only workers, they are also human beings that play a vital role in the global economy.

WHEREAS, each year on December 18, the International Organization for Migration observes International Migrants Day to highlight the contributions made by migrants worldwide and promote respect for their human rights; and this serves to all of us that migration is a shared global experience, one that is interwoven into the fabric of our societies, economies, and cultures.

WHEREAS, the UN proclamation of International Migrants Day is an important step offering a rallying point for all those concerned with the protection of migrants; and this observance encourages global cooperation and effort to address the challenges and problems faced by migrants, while also celebrating the vigor and cultural diversity they bring to their communities.

WHEREAS, in Los Angeles County 22% of children live in mixed status families, with at least one immigrant parent¹; and it is essential to recognize and respect the complex realities and challenges faced by immigrant families, while also acknowledging their resilience and the positive impact they have in society.

WHEREAS, LACOE recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on immigrant families, many of whom served as essential workers providing key services to support our communities; many of these families have experienced hardship due to fear accessing public services would leave them vulnerable to deportation; LACOE further recognizes that the fear of accessing public services due to misinformation of “risks” of deportation has compounded these hardships, creating barriers to essential support such as healthcare, food assistance, education, and economic relief.

WHEREAS, LACOE is committed to protecting the constitutional right of all children to receive a free public education regardless of their immigration status; and is dedicated to advocating for policies and practices that uphold this right, ensuring that schools remain safe spaces for all students and that all children, have equal access to educational opportunities.

WHEREAS, LACOE, especially through its Immigrant Relations Program, Multilingual Academic Support Unit, Migrant Education Program, and Student Support Services Unit, is working to ensure immigrant and refugee students are provided safe and welcoming learning environments and have the needed resources to be healthy, to feel safe and supported, and to thrive and to feel that they belong in schools and in our communities; we continue to strive to ensure that all students have access to the necessary resources and support systems to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.


WHEREAS, LACOE continues to offer its full support to LA County's 80 school districts and LEAs in addressing the needs of immigrant and refugee students and their families; this includes providing LEAs with Technical Assistance, and the necessary tools needed to support immigrant and refugee students. In addition to providing resources for socio-emotional support and advocating for policies that protect the rights of students.

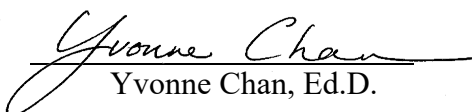
WHEREAS, Schools are at the center of communities as trusted messengers for immigrant children and their families, and LACOE's Immigrant Relations aims to empower school districts, parents and students; provide timely information and response to needs around immigration laws and policies; facilitate navigation of services for immigrant communities; and ensure school compliance to policies that protect students and their families; and serve as a liaison for immigrant communities in LA County by creating meaningful connections between nonprofit agencies, schools, students, and parents.

WHEREAS, LACOE celebrates the cultural mosaic that makes up its workforce and recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of immigrants among its staff; and strives to be a leader in equity, diversity and inclusion; and by fostering an environment where differences are valued and inclusivity is championed. We acknowledge that our diverse staff bring unique perspectives, ideas, and experiences that enrich the organization and its mission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby declares December 18 as International Migrants Day and encourages districts and communities to observe this day by commemorating the often difficult journeys of immigrants, honoring the contributions made by migrants worldwide and promoting respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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