

May 21, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – May 21, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 57 to Recognize Immigrant Heritage Month in June 2024

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 57 as part of the regular County Board meeting on May 21, 2024 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. 57 is attached.

Next Steps:

- In honor of Immigrant Heritage Month, LACOE will share valuable resources and information with LEAs to help them better serve immigrant students, including those who are language learners.
- LACOE will offer LEAs a range of professional development opportunities designed to provide differentiated supports that meet the needs of immigrant students:
 - Family Partnerships and Culture: Reflect and Learn First, Teach Second - June 10, 2024.
 - Supporting Schools & Newcomers: Overview of Unaccompanied Minors - June 20, 2024.
 - Becoming Effective and Equitable Early Childhood Leaders - September 10, 2024.
 - 2024 Embrace Equity Symposium (for equitable education) - November 13 and 14, 2024.
 - Equity Tropes and Traps – June 17, 2024.
 - California HETAC Training Series Course 3: McKinney-Vento 101 – June 30, 2024.
 - Equity in Data Book Club – 2/27/2025
- LACOE 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](#)

- Here are some recommended texts that offer insights into the experiences of immigrant children, youth, and families:
 - “Lailah’s Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story” – Childhood experiences navigating Ramadan as a new immigrant to the United States from India.
 - “A Shelter in Our Car”—Jamaican American Zettie and her mother come to the U.S. for a better life after Zettie’s father passes away.
 - “Enrique’s Journey” – When journalist Sonia Nazario met Enrique, an undocumented immigrant teen, she was stunned by his story of immigrating to the United States alone.
 - “Denied, Detained, Deported: The Dark Side of American Immigration” – For teens who are interested in learning the history of immigration in the U.S.
 - “Something in Between” – The author explores the experiences of undocumented teens in *Something in Between*.
 - “We are Displaced” offers more insight into the life of an extraordinary woman and an introduction to lesser-known conflicts and refugee experiences around the world.
 - “We Are Here to Stay: Voices of Undocumented Young Adults” - Anonymous young writers share their stories of being undocumented.
 - “This Land is Our Land” - Osborne organizes her immigration history to the United States into waves of immigrants, making it an excellent resource for highlighting parallels in the immigrant experience through time.

BOARD RESOLUTION
No. 57: 2024-2025

Immigrant Heritage Month (June 2024)

- WHEREAS,** In 2019, the United States Congress acknowledged the month of June as "Immigrant Heritage Month". This recognition is a celebration of the numerous contributions and accomplishments that immigrants and their children have made in shaping the history, economy, and culture of the United States. Immigrants and their children have played pivotal and influential roles in the development of American culture and art, just as they have in science and academic institutions. Their presence has helped bring about increased openness and acceptance in American institutions toward diverse perspectives and ideas. This acknowledgment serves as a reminder of the positive impact of immigration in the United States and the need to celebrate the diversity and contributions of immigrants.
- WHEREAS,** On June 20th every year, we commemorate World Refugee Day to celebrate the resilience and bravery demonstrated by refugees from all corners of the world. This day also marks the signing of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees by the United Nations, which highlights the importance of safeguarding the rights of this vulnerable group. Refugees and immigrants possess an unwavering fortitude and tenacity that often leaves people in awe when they hear their stories of survival and determination. However, their struggles do not end once they reach our shores, as they often encounter numerous obstacles such as linguistic barriers, difficulty navigating unfamiliar cultural norms, providing education to their children, finding employment, accessing housing, transportation, and essential services.
- WHEREAS,** On June 15, 1982, the Supreme Court of the United States made a landmark decision in *Plyler v. Doe* that had a significant impact on the lives of countless immigrant children in the country. The ruling stated that every child living in the U.S. should have the opportunity to live a full life and engage meaningfully in our society and economy, regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents. This meant that all children, regardless of their background and legal status, were entitled to access K-12 public education and the benefits that come with it.
- WHEREAS,** Los Angeles County has a long-standing history of welcoming and hosting newcomers from various parts of the world. Among the most recent arrivals are refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan, Syria, Guatemala, Iraq, Ukraine, and other countries where people are facing persecution and violence. Despite the challenges of resettlement, Los Angeles County has remained committed to providing a safe and hospitable environment for these newcomers. The county has set up various programs and services to support their integration into the community, including language courses, job training, school enrollment information, legal services, case management, counseling services, and more.

WHEREAS, According to the Vera Institute Of Justice, studies show that 4.4 million immigrants reside in the Los Angeles Metro area; 2.2 million non-citizens in the LA Metro area are potentially at risk of deportation; there are 1.6 million children in the LA Metro area with at least one immigrant parent; five in nine children in the LA Metro area have at least one immigrant parent; the vast majority of children with at least one immigrant parent in the LA Metro area are U.S. citizens.

WHEREAS, LACOE is dedicated to ensuring that every child is welcomed with dignity into our communities and the organizations that serve them. To achieve this goal, LACOE offers a wide range of professional development opportunities to educators, administrators, and other school district personnel. LACOE recognizes the importance of community engagement and meaningful partnerships in creating welcoming and inclusive schools. That is why LACOE continuously works closely LEAs, community organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that every child has the support they need to succeed

WHEREAS, LACOE has been providing support to school districts in the region with instructional programs aimed at improving the English language development (ELD) of students. This program aims to enhance children's linguistic capabilities and promote social-emotional learning (SEL) to increase emotional competencies. Furthermore, LACOE's Immigrant Relations program continues to assist Los Angeles County School districts, parents, and students with timely information and resources related to immigration policies.

WHEREAS, LACOE has a strong commitment to safeguarding the constitutional right of every child to receive a free public education, irrespective of their immigration status, and strives to remove any obstacles that may hinder enrollment. LACOE's Immigrant Relations program works towards promoting school district compliance to ensure that all children, regardless of their immigration status, have equal access to education and resources.

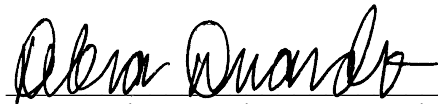
WHEREAS, LACOE is committed to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment for immigrant and refugee students. Through a range of programs such as the Immigrant Relations Program, Multilingual Academic Support Unit, CalNEW, Wellbeing and Support Services, and Migrant Education, LACOE ensures that these students have access to the resources and support they need to enroll in school, feel safe and supported, and be healthy and engaged in their education. LACOE also facilitates the navigation of services for immigrant communities in LA County by creating meaningful connections between school districts and other stakeholders in the community. This ensures that immigrant students and their families have access to essential services such as legal support, healthcare, and education assistance.

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.

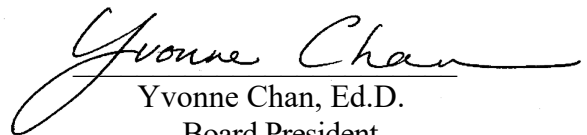
WHEREAS, LACOE celebrates the diversity of its workforce and recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of immigrants and refugees among its staff.

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 21st day of May, 2024, 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