

January 7, 2025

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – January 7, 2025

Item VII. Recommendations

- A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 32 to Recognize the year 2025 as the “Los Angeles County Office of Education’s Reaffirmation of Its Commitment to All Students”

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 32 as part of the regular County Board meeting on January 7, 2025; and further recommend that the County Board recognize the year 2025 as the “LACOE’s Reaffirmation of its Commitment to All Students” and continue to advocate for, support, and defend requirements and district-initiated efforts through legislation, policy, and procedures that specifically address the topics of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; recognize and promote the importance of public schools and education as the foundation upon which we build the nation’s future; acknowledge the often difficult journeys of immigrants and understanding the circumstances that have led people throughout history to migrate for family reunification and safety, 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; and deepen our students’ sense of our shared history, the significant contributions of historically underserved races, and help our students understand and appreciate the rich histories and cultural contributions of various communities that challenge racial oppression, as they relate to safe, supportive, and equitable environments.

Board Resolution No. 32 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 year with appropriate programs and activities.
- Provide appropriate professional development opportunities and training to administrators and educators to equip them with the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of all students and foster inclusivity in the classroom.
- Celebrate the year through LACOE Communications channels.

**BOARD RESOLUTION  
NO. 32: 2024-2025**

**Reaffirmation of the Los Angeles County Office of Education's  
Commitment to All Students (2025)**

- WHEREAS**, during 2024 the Los Angeles County Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools adopted resolutions for Public Schools, Immigrant Heritage, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual; and
- WHEREAS**, sections of the aforementioned resolutions and new language on Ethnic Studies have been combined to create this resolution to support all students, including early education; and
- WHEREAS**, it is essential that there be a reaffirmation to ensure that all our students and families know that we stand with them at this moment in our nation's history; and Section 1
- WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2024, Board Resolution No. 46, Public School's Month was adopted; and
- WHEREAS**, America's public schools have traditionally had the responsibility for instilling a love of learning in our children, including early education, as well as the knowledge, skills and abilities to pursue satisfying, productive lives; and
- WHEREAS**, public schools provide hope and a vision to see students succeed in life, and are uniquely positioned to help every child receive the support and opportunities they need to achieve their fullest potential; and
- WHEREAS**, public schools play a key role in helping our children learn about and embrace the richness of our nation's diverse cultures and teach civics which give our society its strength and flexibility; and
- WHEREAS**, our public schools provide the educational tools and institutional support to millions of young Americans to achieve both rewarding careers and fulfilling life endeavors; and
- WHEREAS**, public schools cultivate in our children an understanding of the importance of civil rights and the benefits of living in a democratic society. Public schools are a critical place for students to develop the civic knowledge, skills and values needed to effectively contribute to and participate in an equitable and just society; and Section 2

**WHEREAS**, on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Board Resolution No. 56, Recognize Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) was adopted; and

**WHEREAS**, 10.3% of California students (UCLA\*, 2017) in middle and high school grades identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+); and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQIA+ individuals disproportionately experience incidents of victimization, micro-aggressions, unsafe and discriminatory school and work climates, homelessness, family and peer rejection, substance use and suicidal ideation, attempts and deaths by suicide. (California Healthy Kids Survey, 2019-2021: Main Report. San Francisco: WestEd Health & Human Development Program for the California Department of Education.); and

**WHEREAS**, visibility, sense of safety and belonging are essential aspects of inclusive and affirming learning and working environments where all students, families and staff see themselves as a part of their school, work and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, LACOE is committed to ensuring that schools are safe and affirming spaces for all students, staff and families and to fostering a safe, respectful and inclusive community culture; and

**WHEREAS**, California state law prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying towards LGBTQIA+ students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, LACOE denounces prejudice and discrimination based on age, race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, actual or perceived disability, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression as an affront to our fundamental principles; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQIA+ inclusive curricula and content highlights the importance of honoring and affirming diverse and intersecting identities and the contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community throughout history; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2019, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and the Equality California Institute co-sponsored Assembly Bill (AB) 493, known as the Safe and Supportive Schools Act, which encourages teachers to receive training on school and community resources available to support LGBTQ+ students facing bullying, harassment, discrimination, or lack of acceptance at home or school; and Section 3

**WHEREAS**, on May 21, 2024, Board Resolution No. 57, Recognize Immigrant Heritage Month was adopted; and

**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; and

**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 education and the benefits that come with it; and

**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 Los Angeles 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; and

**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; and

**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, and

**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; and Section 4

**WHEREAS,** Ethnic Studies enhances students’ academic experience; and

**WHEREAS,** California boasts one of the largest and most diverse student populations in the nation, with 77% of students representing a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and over 200 languages spoken across the state; and

**WHEREAS,** Ethnic Studies courses offer an interdisciplinary approach to understanding differences, aiming to deepen students' understanding of shared history, highlight the significant contributions of historically marginalized groups, and promote a greater appreciation for the histories and cultural achievements of communities that challenge racial oppression; and

**WHEREAS,** Ethnic Studies and Ethnic Studies Programs provide a platform for marginalized voices to reclaim their histories, challenge prevailing narratives, and allow students to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, thereby helping to close achievement and opportunity gaps, as well as increasing graduation and college enrollment rates; and

**WHEREAS,** the Los Angeles County Office of Education recognizes the importance of social justice and racial equity in the community and in the education of every student; and

**WHEREAS,** the Los Angeles County Office of Education is dedicated to offering high-quality educational opportunities to all students, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, income, sexual orientation, or disability, and is guided by core values of equity, inclusivity, and universally high expectations; and

**WHEREAS,** the Los Angeles County Office of Education is committed to honoring and celebrating the diversity of others while ensuring that we learn from the cultural heritage of all communities. Section 5

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools declares the year of 2025 as Public School, LGBTQIA+ Rights, Immigrant Rights, and Ethnic Studies

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we celebrate public schools and the powerful work that our educators do each and every day and stand with them in creating safe spaces for all students, including early education, in Los Angeles County.


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby advocate for, support and defend Los Angeles County Office of Education schools in their effort to implement policies, procedures, and practices that increase safe, health, supportive, affirming and equitable learning and working environments for LGBTQIA+ community members.

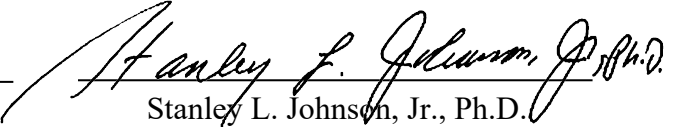
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that immigrant students and their families are celebrated members of our schools and feel safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Ethnic Studies is taught and is inclusive of the multiple histories of marginalized ethnic groups.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools during this time of political rhetoric that is divisive and hurtful, hereby advocate for all students in Los Angeles County, their families, and are prepared to stand in defense of them.

**ADOPTED** this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 2025, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

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

  
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Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.  
Board President