

January 21, 2025

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – January 21, 2025

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 35: To Recognize National African American History Month, during the Month of February 2025

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 35. The Superintendent further recommends that the County Board recognize and support National African American History Month in February 2025 by encouraging public officials, educators, librarians, and school communities to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

Board Resolution No. 35 is attached.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.
- Host 35<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Heritage Committee Luncheon and provide cultural experiences and scholarships for students.
- Partner with UCLA's Center for the Transformation of Schools and our partners to provide comprehensive research-based training and four years of technical support to equity multiplier schools to help them pursue excellence and eliminate disparities in outcomes for African American students.
- Provide a training on African American studies as part of the Implementation of the Ethnic Studies graduation requirement (AB 101).

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

NO. 35: 2023-24

### **National African American History Month**

- WHEREAS,** Africans were forcibly brought to American shores to be enslaved as early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century; and
- WHEREAS,** Black Americans have subsequently faced systemic injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, racist attacks, discrimination such as redlining, and denial of basic, fundamental rights; and
- WHEREAS,** in spite of these injustices, many of which continue to exist today, Black Americans have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific and technological advancements of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** National African American History Month, also known as Black History Month, had its origins in 1915 when historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History; and
- WHEREAS,** Black History Month in February celebrates the contributions that Black Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality and deepens our understanding of our Nation's history; and
- WHEREAS,** Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden have issued Presidential messages and proclamations recognizing the significance of National African American History Month by urging all Americans to recognize the important contributions made by African Americans to American life and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States Congress has similarly passed laws and adopted resolutions since 1986 to recognize the significance of contributions made by Black Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society; and
- WHEREAS,** The Black History Month theme this year is “Black Health and Wellness” and communities are encouraged to align events and activities with this theme; and
- WHEREAS,** Black History Month is a time for us to continue our collective journey of honoring and deepening our knowledge of the history and contributions of Black Americans and people of African descent that have been marginalized from mainstream curricula and discussions because of our country’s legacy of slavery, and institutional and structural racism; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE is committed to valuing diversity and believes deeply that equity, respect and justice are central to the character of who we are, to the health of our democracy and to the well-being of our world; and

**WHEREAS,** At LACOE, it is our hope that during this month of recognition and celebration of Black Americans and their contributions made to this country, that we will work to disrupt manifestations of anti-blackness sentiments in our communities and in our schools; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize and support National African American History Month in February by encouraging 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 school districts in their effort to commemorate National African American History Month by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of Black American students.

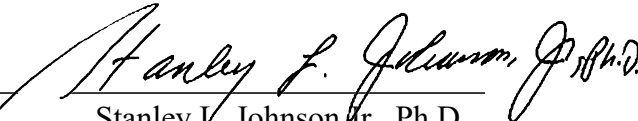
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby support school districts in their effort to improve outcomes for African American and black students by training LEA personnel on how to implement research-based strategies that promote the success of black students.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby aim to eliminate any institutional racism that may negatively impact black employees by collecting and monitoring both qualitative and quantitative equity, diversity, and inclusion data and taking appropriate action to eliminate any signs of bias in the systems at LACOE.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby support school districts in their effort to improve outcomes for African American and black students by training LEA personnel on how to successfully integrate an ethnic studies course that recognizes and values the many historical contributions of African American people.

**ADOPTED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2025, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

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

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