

March 18, 2025

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – March 18, 2025

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

D. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 50: Recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April 2025

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 50 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 18, 2025; and further recommends that the Board declare April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and urge communities to recognize this month by working together to support child abuse prevention and awareness programs and activities.

Board Resolution No. 50 is shown on the following page.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Send out LACOE communication to all 80 districts to encourage districts, schools, and partner organizations to observe this month and with appropriate programs and activities, including resources available through Los Angeles County's Mandated Supporting Initiative (MSI).
- Promote kids' art contest through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
- Continue to meet with county partners to identify strategies and resources to strengthen communities with children at the center, reduce unnecessary contact with the child welfare system, nurture and support thriving families, and empower youth and communities
- Build the capacity of school districts to strike the appropriate balance between a system primarily focused on mandated reporting of suspected abuse and neglect and one that equips educators and staff to support families and promote holistic family well-being as the best way to ensure that children are safe.
- Continue to work with partner agencies to standardize training for mandated reporters, toward the goals of ensuring that all mandated reporters in education receive consistent, high-quality training and resources.
- Promote critical thinking and unbiased decision-making among mandated reporters by providing training, decision-support tools, and other resources that equip them to understand the role and jurisdiction of child protective services, distinguish child safety concerns from issues like poverty, and identify and connect families with supportive resources when appropriate.

**Board Resolution No. 50:2024-2025**  
**Declaring April as “National Child Abuse Prevention Month”**  
**April 2025**

**WHEREAS,** in alignment with AB 2085, which went into effect in January of 2023, it is essential to distinguish economic disadvantage from neglect. Our commitment to fostering safer communities remains unwavering as we collaborate to ensure child safety and heal the legacy of over-reporting due to bias, which has resulted in trauma and over-surveillance of low-income families of color; and

**WHEREAS,** our children are some of the most vulnerable members of our society,

**WHEREAS,** child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age, which includes physical and/or emotional mal treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, and which results in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power,

**WHEREAS,** one in four girls and one and in thirteen boys in the U.S. are estimated to experience child abuse nationwide, and more than 550,000 children are known to U.S. authorities to be abused.

**WHEREAS,** child abuse is a concern that impacts the long-term intellectual, behavioral, mental, and physical health of children.

**WHEREAS,** children spend a significant part of their day in the school environment and schools play a critical role in identifying and reporting suspected child abuse, with staff members, including teachers, counselors, school nurses and administrators and all mandated reporters in education comprising the second largest mandated reporter category in Los Angeles County.

**WHEREAS,** LACOE through Los Angeles County’s Mandated Supporter Initiative has supported the development of tools and training to help mandated reporters make better decisions when it comes to determining whether a situation constitutes a ‘reasonable suspicion’ of reportable general neglect.

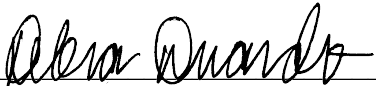
**WHEREAS,** mandated reporters typically include teachers, counselors, administrators, school nurses, and other staff members who encounter students and;

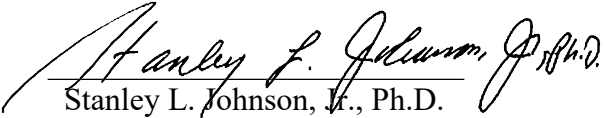
**WHEREAS,** schools should create a safe and supportive environment where children feel comfortable sharing concerns about abuse or neglect and,

**WHEREAS,** schools should collaborate with community partners, such as child welfare agencies, law enforcement, and mental health providers, to ensure that abused children receive the support they need.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles County Board of Education proclaims April National Child Abuse Prevention Month and will raise awareness of child abuse by working with key partners including schools to transform the mandated reporting process in education across Los Angeles County to better support historically underserved children, youth and families.

**ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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