

May 20, 2025

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – May 20, 2025

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 63 to Recognize Immigrant Heritage Month in June 2025

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 63 as part of the regular County Board meeting on May 20, 2025 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. 63 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:
  - Legal Protections for Immigrant Students: A Guide for Educators
    - Webinar – May 7, 3-4 p.m. ([register here](#))
    - Webinar – May 21, 4-5 p.m. ([register here](#))
  - Child Welfare and Attendance – June 3, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ([register here](#))
  - Trauma-Informed Practices for Caregivers – June 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. ([register here](#))
  - Getting Reading Right K-5 Boot Camp, Summer 2025 – July 14-18, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – ([register here](#))
  - California HETAC Training Series Course 3: McKinney-Vento 101 – June 30, 2025 – ([register here](#))
- LACOE has also curated the following resources in support of students who are also newcomers and/or refugees:
  - [2025 Student Empowerment Summit: Breaking Barriers, Making History!](#)
  - [Newcomer Resources for Distribution](#)
  - [New Arrival Support Resources](#)

- [Unaccompanied Children & ORR Presentation 5.1.25 - Google Drive](#)
- [AB699 Toolkit - Google Docs](#) – Legal Protections for Immigrant Students
- [LACOE: Immigrant Relations - Resources](#)
- [Supporting Schools & Newcomers - Padlet](#)
- [The Office of Immigrant Affairs - Know Your Rights](#)
- Here are some recommended texts that offer insights into the experiences of immigrant children, youth and families:
  - *“Little Bird Laila”* – Childhood experiences navigating Ramadan as a new immigrant to the United States from India.
  - *“Pedro’s Yo-yos”*— How a Filipino Immigrant Came to America and Changed the World of Toys.
  - *“I Was Their American Dream: A Graphic Memoir”* – I Was Their American Dream is at once a coming-of-age story and a reminder of the thousands of immigrants who come to America in search for a better life for themselves and their children.
  - *“If Only You Knew”* – Emily Francis' memoir tells her story through a series of letters she writes to eight immigrant students in whom she sees pieces of herself.
  - *“Safe haven?”* – A history of refugees in America
  - *“The New Americans”* – Immigrant life in Southern California

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

No. 63: 2024-25

### **Immigrant Heritage Month (June 2025)**

- WHEREAS,** In 2019, the U.S. Congress declared June as "Immigrant Heritage Month," celebrating the significant contributions of immigrants and their children to American history, economy and culture. Their influence spans various fields, including art, science and academia, fostering openness and acceptance in society. This month serves as a reminder of the positive impacts of immigration and the importance of recognizing the diversity that immigrants bring.
- WHEREAS,** On June 20th, we observe World Refugee Day to honor the resilience of refugees worldwide. This day also marks the signing of the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, underscoring the need to protect their rights. Refugees display remarkable courage and tenacity, but their challenges continue upon arrival. They face linguistic barriers, cultural differences and difficulties in securing education, employment, housing and essential services.
- WHEREAS,** On June 15, 1982, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a landmark ruling in the case of Plyler v. Doe, which significantly impacted the lives of countless immigrant children in the country. The decision declared that every child residing in the U.S. should have the opportunity to lead a whole life and participate meaningfully in society and the economy, regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents. This ruling ensured that all children could access K-12 public education and the associated benefits irrespective of their background or legal status.
- WHEREAS,** Los Angeles County has a rich history of welcoming newcomers, including recent refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan, Syria, Guatemala, Iraq and Ukraine. Despite the challenges of resettlement, the county is dedicated to providing a safe environment. It offers programs like language courses, job training, school enrollment assistance, legal services and counseling to help these individuals integrate into the community.
- 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; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE has been supporting regional school districts with instructional programs designed to improve students' English language development (ELD). These programs aim to enhance children's language skills while promoting social-emotional learning (SEL) to foster emotional competencies. Additionally, LACOE's Immigrant Relations program continues to provide Los Angeles County school districts, parents and students with up-to-date information and resources regarding immigration policies and their rights and educational entitlements; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE is dedicated to protecting the constitutional right of every child to receive a free public education, regardless of their immigration status. The organization works to eliminate any barriers that may prevent enrollment. Through its Immigrant Relations program, LACOE promotes compliance among school districts to ensure that all children, regardless of immigration status, have equal access to education and resources; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for immigrant and refugee students. Through initiatives such as the Immigrant Relations Program and Migrant Education, LACOE offers resources for enrollment, safety and educational engagement. Additionally, it connects immigrant communities in LA County with essential services, including legal support, healthcare and academic assistance; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE's Immigrant Relations program empowers districts, students, caregivers and communities by providing culturally and linguistically relevant resources. It also promotes compliance with policies that protect students and their families. Additionally, the program offers presentations to educators on the legal protections available for immigrant students. Furthermore, it conducts presentations on "Know Your Educational Rights" for students and parents in both English and Spanish throughout LA County; and

**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 challenging 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

	
Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.	Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent	Board President