

## Board Meeting – February 17, 2026

## Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- S. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 45: to Recognize National Social Work Month, March 2026 and National School Social Work Week, March 1-7, 2026

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 45 as part of the regular County Board meeting on February 17, 2026; and further recommends that the Board proclaim the month of March 2026 as National Social Work Month in celebration and support of the social work profession, and acknowledge March 1-7, 2026 as National School Social Work Week in celebration of the essential contributions of school social workers to student mental health and wellbeing.

Board Resolution No. 45 is shown on the following page.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)'s Public Affairs and Communications Division will encourage districts, schools and community-based organizations throughout Los Angeles County to observe Social Work Month and School Social Work Week through social media communications, newsletter announcements and by publishing a dedicated webpage on the LACOE website.
- The Mental Health and School Counseling Unit will:
  - promote National Social Work Month and National School Social Work Week through strategic engagement across social media platforms, a dedicated webpage and through unit and LACOE newsletters.
  - support and recognize the important contributions of school social workers through the annual Los Angeles County Office of Education School Social Worker of the Year Award, which honors exemplary practice and leadership in school social work
  - provide ongoing support to school social workers serving the 80 districts and 350 charter schools through professional development and consultation that strengthen capacity, promote best practices, and advance multi-tiered systems of school mental health support.
  - promote the profession of social work through the education and training of bachelor and master-level social work students from thirteen universities placed in partner

districts. By providing training, practicum instruction, clinical supervision and direct experiences, these interns are prepared to obtain Pupil Personnel Services Credentials in School Social Work and Child Welfare and Attendance. These social workers address the needs of the whole child by providing mental health support and education to parents, addressing student and family needs, providing referral and linkage to services, and identifying and treating mental health concerns experienced by students.

- honor the school social workers and social work interns serving across LACOE schools and divisions through social media and LACOE newsletters.

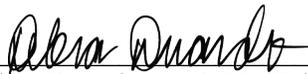
**BOARD RESOLUTION**  
**No. 45: 2025-26**  
**National Social Work Month 2026**

- WHEREAS,** social work is a profession dedicated to enhancing human well-being, meeting the basic human needs of all people, and prioritizing the empowerment of individuals and communities who are vulnerable, marginalized, oppressed, or living in poverty; and
- WHEREAS,** social workers are on the front lines of responding to the nation’s growing mental health crisis, addressing rising suicide rates, trauma, social and racial inequities, and barriers to access to care for children, youth, and families; and
- WHEREAS,** social workers for generations have championed policies that strengthen communities, including social safety net programs addressing hunger, homelessness, and poverty, and immigration policies that ensure students and families—regardless of immigration status—have access to safe schools, essential services, and opportunities to thrive.
- WHEREAS,** school social workers collaborate with educators, administrators, families, and community partners to remove barriers to learning and promote positive school climates; and
- WHEREAS,** school social workers uplift students and families by providing prevention, early intervention, and crisis support services that foster resilience, belonging, and hope; and
- WHEREAS,** school social workers serve as vital members of school communities by promoting student wellness, improving attendance and engagement, supporting academic success, strengthening family-school partnerships, and advancing equity through multi-tiered systems of support; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2026 National Social Work Month theme, “*Social Workers: Uplift. Defend. Transform.*”, highlights the essential role social workers play in strengthening individuals, families, schools, and communities during a time of significant cultural, political, and economic division; and
- WHEREAS,** the Los Angeles County Office of Education supports each Local Education Agency to empower students, families and school staff through a greater understanding of the social emotional needs of children and youth and access to greater whole child support for all students in schools and the community; and
- WHEREAS,** the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognize that social emotional support, continues to be a fundamental problem for many students and families across Los Angeles County; and

**WHEREAS,** the future well-being of our county depends on the value we place on our youth and in particular, on our actions to provide these most vulnerable of young people with the support and academic opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to develop into healthy, self-sufficient adults; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** in recognition of the numerous contributions made by social workers across the United States, that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaim the month of March 2026 as National Social Work Month, and March 1-7, 2026 as School Social Work Week, in celebration and support of the social work profession.

**ADOPTED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026, 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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James Cross  
Board President