

Board Meeting – March 17, 2026

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 50: Declaring April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and April 29, 2026, as “Denim Day” at the Los Angeles County Office of Education

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 50 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 17, 2026; and further recommends that the Board proclaim the month of April 2026 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” and designate April 29, 2026 as “Denim Day,” and urge everyone to wear jeans on April 29, 2026 to help communicate the message that there is “no excuse and never an invitation to harassment, abuse, assault or rape.”

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.
- Highlight LACOE’s leadership and commitment to empowering youth and communities to raise awareness of and prevent sexual violence via social media.
- Wear Denim on Wednesday, April 29 to spread awareness against sexual assault.
- Take a picture in your denim and post on social media #DenimDay.
- Get involved by posting on social media encouraging your digital community to get involved.
- Volunteer your time with organizations that support this cause.
- Highlight LACOE’s participation in the Gender-based Violence Prevention Board Motion.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 50: 2025-26

Denim Day Proclamation

Declaring April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and April 29, 2026, as “Denim Day” at the Los Angeles County Office of Education

WHEREAS, it is reported that every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted; and 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 high school students have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner; and 2 in 3 transgender people have been sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, the impact of sexual assault has long lasting consequences. Survivors of sexual assault often experience mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, panic attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and suicidal ideation and are more likely to experience substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, with proper education on the matter and comprehensive prevention projects, sexual violence and its unfair and traumatizing effects are preventable; and

WHEREAS, April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), a time to raise awareness, educate and support survivors of sexual violence.

WHEREAS, this campaign focuses on enhancing public understanding of sexual violence, amplifying the voices of survivors and empowering us to work together to promote the safety and well-being of others.

WHEREAS, both Sexual Awareness Month and Denim Day, events are intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence remains a genuine issue in our society. The magnitude of the problem has drawn public attention following the #MeToo movement and cases of domestic violence, including sexual violence against women, trans women and girls, intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month for 2026 is “25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward,” which highlights the progress made over the past 25 years to raise awareness, support survivors, and strengthen prevention efforts while reaffirming the commitment to continue advancing a future free from sexual violence.

WHEREAS, Sexual Awareness Month seeks to prevent sexual violence through education, awareness campaigns and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, many schools and communities throughout Los Angeles County participate in Denim Day, a day to wear denim in solidarity with survivors of sexual violence and Denim Day seeks to highlight and eliminate attitudes that blame victims and prevent them from seeking assistance; and

WHEREAS, LACOE and the Los Angeles County Board of Education designate April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month/Denim Day, promoting awareness about sexual violence through educational initiatives and solidarity actions like Denim Day on April 29, fostering a culture of consent and respect among students and the community.

WHEREAS, by participating in Denim Day activities, we promote prevention through education; make it possible for more survivors of sexual assault to reach out and find help; and help everyone to understand the critical role they play in preventing violence against women; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education do hereby proclaim the month of April 2026 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” designate April 29, 2026 as “Denim Day,” and urge everyone to wear jeans on April 29, 2026 to help communicate the message that there is “no excuse and never an invitation to harassment, abuse, assault, rape.”

ADOPTED this 17th day of March 2026 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California



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



James Cross
Board President