

Board Meeting – March 17, 2026

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

D. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 53 : Recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2026

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 53 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 17, 2026; 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. 53 is shown on the following page.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Send LACOE communication to all 80 districts encouraging districts, schools and partner organizations to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.
- Continue to center child safety and strong families by partnering with Los Angeles County's Mandated Supporting Initiative and raising awareness across the education community about training, tools and resources to strengthen the knowledge and skills of mandated reporters in education to comply with AB 2085, clarify the difference between poverty and neglect and improve the accuracy of reports of suspected abuse or neglect to child protective services.
- Continue to meet with families and county partners to identify strategies and resources to strengthen communities with students at the center, reduce unnecessary contact with the child welfare system, nurture and support thriving families and empower youth and communities.
- Share informational posts across LACOE social media platforms highlighting child abuse prevention resources, key statistics and fact to raise awareness and promote prevention efforts throughout the month.

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

**No. 53: 2025-26**

### **National Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2026**

- WHEREAS,** in alignment with AB 2085, which went into effect in January 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 and inadequate training, which has resulted in trauma and over-surveillance of low-income families of color; and
- WHEREAS,** our children are among the most vulnerable members of our society; and
- WHEREAS,** communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and
- WHEREAS,** children deserve to grow up in safe and nurturing environments that are free from abuse and neglect; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse and neglect profoundly affect all facets of our community; and
- WHEREAS,** child abuse can have long-term and intergenerational psychological, emotional and physical effects that have lasting consequences for the victims; and
- WHEREAS,** over the long term, children who are abused or neglected are at increased risk for experiencing future violence victimization and perpetration, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, delayed brain development, lower educational attainment and limited employment opportunities; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE recognizes that teachers and other school staff are in a key position to prevent, identify and assist families, as well as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect due to their frequent contact with students; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE and the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) collaborate to provide training, guidance and awareness opportunities to support families, as well as preventing and responding to suspected abuse or neglect; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE recognizes that providing linkages to community-based prevention services and access to resources for families whose children may be at risk of child abuse or neglect is critical; and

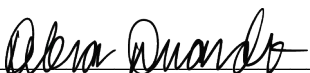
**WHEREAS,** child abuse prevention remains the best defense for our children and families and effective prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created among schools, parents and caregivers, community-and faith-based organizations and partners;


**WHEREAS,** early awareness, prevention education, and community collaboration can significantly reduce the occurrence and impact of child abuse; and

**WHEREAS,** we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child safety, child abuse prevention and identification and contribute to promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable and nurturing environment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools declare April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and urge communities to recognize this month by working together to support child abuse prevention programs and activities.

**ADOPTED** this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 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