

Board Meeting – March 17, 2026

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

E. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 54: Recognizing Earth Day as April 22, 2026

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 54 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 17, 2026; and further recommends that the County Board proclaims April 22, 2026 as Earth Day and the month of April 2026 as Earth Month and encourages districts and communities to observe Earth Day and Earth Month with appropriate programs and activities.

Board Resolution No. 54 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 environmental justice on social media, such as our Green Initiative and reduced carbon footprint through excellence and innovation around remote work and various other efforts like outdoor learning.
- LACOE will hold its fifth annual symposium on environmental sustainability for its 79 school districts and all constituents on April 21. The Green Schools Symposium will be held at the Natural History Museum and will feature best practices for integrating environmental sustainability into school facilities and curriculum; and

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

No. 54: 2025-26

### **Earth Day (April 22) and Earth Month (April)**

- WHEREAS,** in 1987, the United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”; and
- WHEREAS,** the three pillars of sustainability are: social, economic and environmental. All three pillars must work in conjunction with providing a balanced approach; and
- WHEREAS,** there is extensive consensus within the scientific community that human activities contribute to increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Increased emissions result in a greater threat of climate change to the Earth and this threat can only be solved by combined human effort; and
- WHEREAS,** the negative impacts of climate change, including public health and economic consequences, have a disproportionate impact on chronically underserved communities and communities of color; and
- WHEREAS** implementation of sustainable practices on school campuses, capital investments to improve energy efficiency and other environmentally mindful purchasing decisions can yield significant cost savings for schools; and
- WHEREAS,** as we head into Earth Month in April, we acknowledge that Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970. This day marks the anniversary of the modern environmental movement, which is celebrated annually. This also led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Act; and
- WHEREAS,** Earth Month has become a time for Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) staff to gather in an annual appreciation of Earth through a Green Team lunch event; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE has established a partnership with the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation to support the creation of an Environmental Sustainability Action Plan to guide the internal work of LACOE and how LACOE supports its 79 districts and all constituents; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE collaborates with the Los Angeles section of the California Clean Air Day Coalition to highlight the impacts of human actions on the condition of the air we all breathe through Committee participation and a staff event annually in October; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE is preparing to memorialize its efforts on environmental sustainability through incorporation into LACOE's 3-year Strategic Plan; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE acknowledges the necessity of promoting activities that reduce our environmental footprint. Despite immediate challenges, it is in our collective best interest to create an environment where all humans can thrive now and in future generations; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE acknowledges the importance of the school's nutrition environment, policies and practices to influence students' food choices that impact personal and planetary health. Local Educational Agencies and schools play a key role in addressing climate change through nutrition education, increasing access to healthy climate-friendly school meals and reducing food waste; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE is dedicated to promoting healthy relationships and advocating for the social-emotional needs of all students, acknowledging that mental health wellness is one aspect of the whole child. The Board acknowledges that the environment is one of the key determinants of mental health outcomes, as studies have shown, and that climate change as a global environmental threat creates psychological distress and anxiety about the future; and

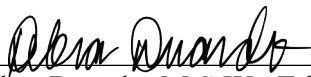
**WHEREAS,** LACOE is proud of the Juvenile Court Schools, Environmental Charter Schools, Odyssey Charter Schools, the Los Angeles County High School of the Arts, International Polytechnic High School and the Outdoor and Marine Science Field Study Program for their commitment to environmental awareness throughout their curriculum; and

**WHEREAS,** LACOE commends educators who share our responsibility to protect our shared environment by leading students in environmental awareness; and

**WHEREAS,** environmental education in Los Angeles County is a collective responsibility that is best promoted through strategic, aligned partnerships that benefit students, community, educators and administrators; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaims April 22, 2026 as Earth Day and the month of April 2026 as Earth Month and encourages districts and communities to observe Earth Day and Earth Month with appropriate programs and activities.

**ADOPTED** this 17<sup>th</sup> 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