

Board Meeting – April 21, 2026

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- F. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 63 to Recognize May 2026, as National Foster Care Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 63 as part of the regular County Board meeting on April 21, 2026; and further recommends that the Board recognize May 2026 as National Foster Care Awareness Month and encourage communities throughout Los Angeles County to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that raise awareness and strengthen support for children and youth in foster care

Resolution No. 63 follows on the next page.

**Next Steps:**

- **District Communication:** Distribute formal communication to all 451 Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and charter schools across Los Angeles County encouraging them to recognize National Foster Care Awareness Month and promote awareness of the experiences and needs of students in foster care.
- **Toolkit Distribution:** Provide the National Foster Care Awareness Month Toolkit to LEAs, school personnel and community partners. The toolkit includes ready-to-use materials, a month-long calendar of suggested activities and practical guidance to help schools and organizations with meaningful awareness efforts.
- **Social Media and Awareness Campaign:** Launch a coordinated awareness campaign throughout the month of May using social media and other communication platforms to share resources, highlight foster youth success stories and amplify district and community efforts supporting students in foster care.
- **Professional Learning Opportunities:** Offer trainings and informational sessions for educators and partners focused on improving educational stability, increasing awareness of foster youth education rights and strengthening supports for students in foster care.
- **Cross-System Collaboration:** Continue working with educational partners, child welfare agencies and community-based organizations to strengthen coordination of services and promote shared awareness efforts during National Foster Care Awareness Month.
- **School and Community Engagement:** Encourage schools and community partners through the LACOE Regional Learning Network Meeting to host activities that promote inclusion, recognition and support for students in foster care while maintaining student privacy.

## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

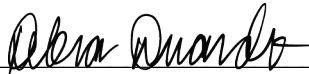
**NO. 63: 2025-26**

### **Recognize May as National Foster Care Awareness Month**

- WHEREAS,** National Foster Care Awareness Month was first recognized in 1988 through a presidential proclamation to raise awareness about the needs of children and youth in foster care and to recognize the many individuals and organizations dedicated to supporting them; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 330,000 children and youth across the United States are in foster care, including nearly 40,000 in California, underscoring the importance of coordinated systems and community partnerships to support their safety, stability and educational success; and
- WHEREAS,** in Los Angeles County approximately 18,650 children and youth are involved in the foster care system, with about 10,088 living in out-of-home placements and nearly 11,000 identified as school-aged, highlighting the significant role that schools and educational partners play in supporting these students; and
- WHEREAS,** students in foster care often experience school mobility, disruptions in educational continuity and barriers to accessing consistent academic and social supports, making stable learning environments and coordinated services essential to improving their educational outcomes; and
- WHEREAS,** the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), through its Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program, works collaboratively with Local Educational Agencies, schools, child welfare agencies, probation and community organizations to improve educational outcomes and promote school stability for students in foster care; and
- WHEREAS,** National Foster Care Awareness Month provides an opportunity for schools, agencies and communities across Los Angeles County to recognize the assets, strengths and resilience of students in foster care and to strengthen efforts that support their educational success and overall well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** increasing awareness and strengthening partnerships across education, child welfare and community systems helps ensure that students in foster care receive the support, encouragement and opportunities needed to thrive in school and beyond; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby recognizes May 2026 as National Foster Care Awareness Month and encourages schools, community partners and residents throughout Los Angeles County to observe this month with programs and activities that raise awareness of the experiences and needs of children and youth in foster care, highlight the importance of educational stability and coordinated support and promote opportunities for students to succeed in school and beyond.

**ADOPTED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 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