

June 2, 2026

APPROVED: DD:cj

Board Meeting – June 2, 2026

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 71 to Recognize Juneteenth on June 19, 2026

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 71 as part of the regular County Board meeting on June 2, 2026; and further asks that the County Board declare June 19 as Juneteenth, aimed at ensuring African American employees experience equitable and inclusive treatment in the workplace while encouraging all education communities to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

We encourage school communities to focus on activities that generate in-depth discussions and an understanding of the history of emancipation and the extraordinary contributions of African Americans in advocating for social justice and racial equity. Through this resolution, LACOE commits to providing instructional resources and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of Black/African American students and to fostering an organizational culture rooted in justice, belonging and professional wellbeing.

Resolution No. 71 is attached.

Next Steps:

- The LACOE African American Heritage Committee will host a Juneteenth celebration to commemorate the Juneteenth holiday.
- The Equity and Social Justice Team will plan a schedule of events to uplift justice and honor the contributions of African Americans throughout the 2026-27 academic year.

BOARD RESOLUTION

No. 71: 2025-26

Juneteenth: Honoring Emancipation and Advancing Racial Justice for African American Employees and Students

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1865, news of emancipation reached Galveston, Texas, marking the end of chattel slavery in the United States—a day now recognized as Juneteenth, African American Freedom Day, or Emancipation Day; and

WHEREAS, while Juneteenth celebrates the end of a 400-year chapter of systemic repression, LACOE recognizes that the legacy of slavery persists through institutional and structural racism, which continues to adversely impact the educational, economic and social outcomes of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the Superintendent declared racism a public health crisis in 2020, noting that silence and neutrality perpetuate injustice and that systemic inequities remain evident in early education and TK-12 academic results where African American students remain the lowest-performing group in the county; and

WHEREAS, the high-profile killings of Black individuals in recent years, including Sonya Massey, Sandra Bland, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd provide traumatic evidence and a reminder of the persistence of identity-based violence, hate and discrimination that necessitates dedicated support for the psychological safety and wellbeing of our Black staff and students; and

WHEREAS, LACOE is uniquely positioned to lead for equity by systemically rejecting racist practices within our organization and schools and the local educational agencies we serve and support, moving beyond equity statements toward measurable, systemic change; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth serves as a time to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of African Americans who have strengthened our nation despite centuries of inequality, while providing a framework for **Truth and Reconciliation** to address past and current harms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the Superintendent hereby declare June 19 as **Juneteenth** and mandate that it be observed with programs that generate in-depth discussion on the history of emancipation and the contributions of Black/African American individuals to social justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LACOE will provide all early education and TK-12 educators in California with access to free, high-quality, asynchronous anti-bias education courses designed to cultivate a shared language around equity, identify implicit and explicit biases and provide practical tools for disrupting and mitigating systemic harm;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, through the June 4, 2024, Motion by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell titled “Continuing the Work of Reparations in Los Angeles County,” has formally committed the County to identifying and stripping away the ‘structural and systemic barriers that continue to impede the lives of Black residents;’ and

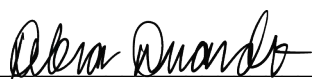
WHEREAS, LACOE is committed to aligning with the Countywide mandate to address systemic barriers to equity and acknowledges that while there has been some progress made, employee feedback identify disparities in the experiences of African American employees related to racial bias, microaggressions and access to mentorship and advancement opportunities and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with state and regional efforts, including Los Angeles County’s Strategic Initiatives to Promote Racial Equity in Los Angeles County, LACOE is committed to rectifying harms caused by structural racism that affect our African American community members. LACOE is committed to institutionalizing Cultural Proficiency and equity training and practices as well as workforce development and leadership pathways to ensure that African American staff are not excluded from the informal and formal networks of institutional power.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LACOE will continue to champion the GENIUS (Genuine Empathy & Nurturing Intellect of Underserved Students) initiative to disrupt academic disparities and ensure that the assets, intellect and identities of African American students, including those in early learning and incarcerated settings, are celebrated, nurtured and protected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent and Board will not tolerate racism or colorism within LACOE offices and schools, and will provide the necessary resources, structures and healing practices, such as restorative workshops and transformative dialogue, to ensure healthy, identity-affirming and just learning and working environments for all.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of June of 2026, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.


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


James Cross
Board President