

Board Meeting – August 18, 2026

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 1 in Recognition of Attendance Awareness Month, September 2026

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 1 as part of the regular County Board meeting on August 18, 2026; and further recommends that the Board recognize September 2026, as Attendance Awareness Month in order to affirm that regular school attendance is essential to student achievement. Attendance Awareness Month kicks off the school year on a positive note by highlighting the importance of school attendance on students' academic success and well-being. School districts and charter schools are encouraged to create attendance awareness campaigns that uplift the assets of communities and meet the diverse and unique needs of their educational partners. Local Educational Agencies are also encouraged to utilize the myriad resources offered by LACOE to create a safe, caring and inclusive school climate in which all students are affirmed and loved, experience belonging and can thrive.

Board Resolution No. 1 is attached.

Next Steps:

- Post and publicize the “September is Attendance Awareness Month Resolution,” on social media and the Student Support Services listservs.
- Share this information at LACOE’s CWA Café and other communities of practice across LACOE Student Support Services.
- Publicize the “Attendance Campaign Toolkit,” as a resource to districts and charters for beginning of the year attendance practices.
- Publicize the “School Attendance Playbook,” to support various efforts to implement a student-focused and data-informed tiered system of support and promote attendance throughout the school year.

BOARD RESOLUTION

No. 1: 2026-27

Attendance Awareness Month, September 2026

- WHEREAS,** research reveals that regular school attendance is essential to student achievement and we are committed to dedicating our resources and attention to reducing chronic absenteeism rates and promoting positive attendance starting as early as preschool, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten; and
- WHEREAS,** chronic absenteeism, which continues to be defined as missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences, as well as suspensions, disrupts consistent access to instruction and learning opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** missing school results in lost instructional time, threatening our students' ability to achieve grade level standards, reducing classroom engagement and increasing their risk of falling behind in core subjects and ultimately dropping out of school;
- WHEREAS,** chronic absenteeism negatively affects our students' social-emotional development, leading to diminished connections with peers and educators, decreased engagement and increased feelings of isolation and low self-esteem; and
- WHEREAS,** persistent absenteeism reduces the likelihood of reading at grade level, limits access to enrichment and support services, negatively impacts high school graduation rates and students' preparedness for college and career opportunities and contributes to long-term economic hardship and increased risk of juvenile justice system involvement; and
- WHEREAS,** recognizing students who move frequently by no choice of their own, including migrant and newcomer students, students experiencing homelessness, those placed in foster care, active military families, adjudicated youth and students receiving special education services, may be more likely to face systemic barriers to attending school – such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, poor nutrition, unstable housing and lack of internet connectivity or access to technology; and
- WHEREAS,** chronic absenteeism can be prevented or significantly reduced when schools, families and communities work together to monitor and promote regular on-time attendance and address barriers that keep children from attending school; and
- WHEREAS,** schools and communities can improve attendance through welcoming

school environments and proactive, student-focused, data-informed and evidence-based strategies, including early identification and intervention, family partnership and engagement, student mentoring, access to physical and mental health supports, positive attendance messaging and coordination among students, parents/guardians, schools and community organizations to address the root causes of chronic absenteeism; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Office of Education staff can support school districts, charter schools and educational partners with technical assistance, training and resources to effectively design systems to improve and maintain positive student attendance and engagement and to intervene with students who are at-risk of being or are chronically absent; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognizes that addressing chronic absenteeism is essential to promoting equitable academic success, supporting students' social-emotional well-being and improving lifelong outcomes for all learners.

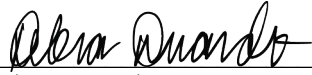
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaims September 2026 as "Attendance Awareness Month"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Office of Education is committed to serving and supporting all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) serving transitional kindergarten through grade 12 students to continue to decrease chronic absenteeism across our county by another 5% by June 2028 compared to the 2025-26 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Office of Education through the child welfare and attendance unit and other programs provides support, training, outreach and technical assistance to address chronic absenteeism as LEAs continue to respond to the multitude of issues impacting our students, families, schools and LEAs countywide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education encourages each LEA to set ambitious and equity-driven attendance goals, allocate relevant resources to support student attendance, monitor attendance data and join together with community partners to prevent and reduce chronic absenteeism, identify and address barriers to regular attendance, take advantage of the robust training options offered through LACOE to reduce chronic absenteeism, support regular school attendance and ensure that all children are provided the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive.

ADOPTED this 18th day of August 2026, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

Handwritten signature of Debra Duardo in black ink.

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

Handwritten signature of Theresa Montaño in black ink.

Theresa Montaño, Ed.D.
Board President