

Board Meeting – September 15, 2026

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

K. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 20 to Recognize October 2026 as Head Start Awareness Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 20 as part of the regular County Board meeting on September 15, 2026; and further recommends that the County Board recognize October 2026 as Head Start Awareness Month and encourage communities to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that recognize the value of the Head Start program in serving as a springboard to launch each child and family toward their fullest potential.

Board Resolution No. 20 is attached.

Next Steps:

- Share stories of Head Start parents, children, alumni and staff with the community.
- Educate policy makers on the value of high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education to children, families and communities.
- Represent and highlight Head Start in community events and activities and through strategic partnerships.
- Continue to partner with colleges, school districts and nonprofit organizations to create opportunities for interested individuals to pursue careers in early childhood education.

BOARD RESOLUTION
No. 20: 2026-27
To Recognize October as Head Start Awareness Month

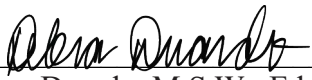
- WHEREAS,** Head Start is celebrating 61 years as the nation’s gold standard early learning and child development program, having served generations of children and families as a springboard to success in school and in life; and
- WHEREAS,** Head Start is a direct investment in communities, with local organizations and parent Policy Councils responsible for determining program design based on assessment of community conditions; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE has provided Head Start services since 1979 and is the largest Head Start grant recipient in California, serving more than 7,000 children and families each year as part of a community of Head Start providers that serve more than 21,000 across L.A. County; and
- WHEREAS,** Head Start programs provide eligible families a valuable choice in California’s mixed-delivery early education system; and
- WHEREAS,** Head Start empowers parents and caregivers as their children’s first and best teachers through intentional collaboration and meaningful participation in program planning and decision-making; and
- WHEREAS,** Head Start is committed to the healthy development of each child, providing preventive and early intervention services to children and families, while serving children with disabilities through individualized supports in inclusive settings; and
- WHEREAS,** Head Start programs respect each family’s home language and culture, as research shows children are more successful in school and life when they develop strong language and literacy skills in both their home language and English; and
- WHEREAS,** Head Start educators make a lifelong difference for children and families by building a solid foundation that includes quality education, social-emotional development and healthy practices; and
- WHEREAS,** Head Start provides safe environments for children that allow parents and caregivers to work, while also creating new career opportunities through apprenticeships and other workforce development pathways; and
- WHEREAS,** Research shows that children who participate in Head Start are less likely to be chronically absent or held back a grade in elementary or

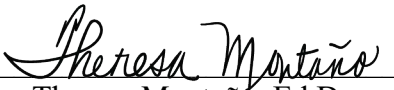
middle school, more likely to graduate high school and attend college and more likely to be financially self-sufficient and in better health as adults; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan first designated October 1982 as Head Start Awareness Month, recognizing that “the involvement of parents, volunteers and the community and the services provided by dedicated Head Start staff have been instrumental in creating a quality program that truly provides young children with a ‘head start’ in life”;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaims October 2026 as Head Start Awareness Month to highlight the lasting value of high-quality early childhood education to children, families and communities.

ADOPTED this 15th day of September 2026, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.


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


Theresa Montaño, Ed.D.
Board President