LOS ANGELES COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
October 20, 2026
APPROVED: DD:cj

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 24 to Recognize November 2026 as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board take action and approve Board Resolution No. 24 and continue to support the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act and Education Code that requires County Offices of Education to support the work of Homeless Liaisons in each of our LEAs. This work includes providing training, technical assistance, housing supports with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), the new LA County Homeless Services & Housing Office (HSH), statewide work through the Homeless Technical Assistance Centers (HETAC), support of our CES Education Coordinators and collaboration with community partners for resources, such as backpacks, school supplies, books, tutoring services and other needed items and services in an effort to address the educational needs of homeless children and youth across Los Angeles County.

Board Resolution No. 24 follows on the next page.

Next Steps:

- The Homeless Education Program provides a planning guide for Homeless Youth Awareness Month in October to the Homeless Liaisons in our 80 Districts & 330 Charters schools to help them plan for awareness related activities in the month of November.
- HETAC (Homeless Technical Assistance Centers) will provide statewide resources to help COEs and LEAs bring awareness to Homeless Youth Awareness Month.
- LACOE Homeless Education Program will send out weekly resources in November, including encouraging everyone to wear green on Mondays.
- LACOE's Homeless Education Program will use their social media accounts to highlight Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

BOARD RESOLUTION
No. 24: 2026-27
Recognizing National Homeless Youth Awareness Month 2026

WHEREAS, On July 11, 2007, the U.S. Congress established November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, 3% of all school-age children will experience homelessness; 1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 17 and 1 in 10 young adults aged 18 to 25 in the United States experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, while unemployment rates may have stabilized, inflation rates, cost of living, low wages and lack of affordable housing are resulting in a significant increase in the numbers of students and families experiencing homelessness across the state and the nation; higher inflation rates and cost of living disproportionately hit low-income/non-income household harder which has an impact on stable housing; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Office Homeless Education Program, the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognize the devastating impact homelessness has on students and are tirelessly working with districts and charters to support this vulnerable and growing population with resources and supplies and continue to serve as partners for consultation and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, more than 2.5 million children are homeless each year in America; 51% of these children are under the age of 5. Children under five years old experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable because the first five years of life are a critical period for child growth, including approximately 90% of brain development. Furthermore, children under five who are experiencing homelessness have a higher risk for multiple adverse childhood experiences, developing chronic health conditions, and often have recurrent homelessness across the course of their; and

WHEREAS, more than a third of students experiencing homelessness also experience chronic absenteeism in California. Across California, rates of chronic absenteeism continue to rise - but students experiencing homelessness experience chronic absenteeism at almost double the rate of all students in the state. In 2024, more than a third (36%) of students experiencing homelessness also experienced chronic absenteeism compared to 1 in 5 (20%) of all students in California. Chronic absenteeism is associated with lower academic achievement and higher dropout rates; and

WHEREAS, students experiencing homelessness experience greater school mobility than their housed peers, which can cause interruptions to a student's education; 40% of students experiencing homelessness experience transportation issues that prevent them for attending school, which also contributes to chronic absenteeism; and

WHEREAS, students in California who experience homelessness graduate at a 76% rate compared to an 88% rate of graduation for their housed peers. Youth without a high school diploma or GED are 4.5 times more likely to experience homelessness than their peers who completed high school, making the lack of a high school diploma or GED the single greatest risk factor for experiencing homelessness as a young adult – and making education a critical prevention strategy; and

WHEREAS, youth cite family conflict and breakdown, abuse or neglect, alcohol or drug addiction of a family member, pregnancy and rejection over sexual orientation as the major reason for their homelessness or episodes of running away from home; and

WHEREAS, unaccompanied homeless youth (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) face serious health and safety threats, including higher risk of physical and sexual abuse and trafficking, and many are victimized repeatedly. Unaccompanied youth account for approximately 8.3% of the homeless student population; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County, in the 2025-26 school year, preliminarily identified nearly 59,000 homeless students from infancy through grade 12. The number of students experiencing homelessness has slightly dropped compared to last school year. A drop in numbers tied to students experiencing homelessness does not always appear to mean that less students are dealing with unstable housing, rather there are other factors that may be at play. This could include an increase in stigma due to deportations and fear, the lack of capacity of staffing due to restructuring and reductions, limited ability for homeless liaisons to provide required training to school staff and a lack of supportive school environments that help families to feel safe to disclose their housing status; and

WHEREAS, the future well-being of our county depends on the value we place on our children and youth and, in particular, on our actions to provide these most vulnerable of children and young people with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to find and maintain stable housing and develop into healthy, self-sufficient adults; and

WHEREAS, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires every local education agency to appoint a liaison for homeless education to ensure proper identification, immediate enrollment and linkages to other educational services and resources for which students experiencing homelessness are eligible; in addition, the LACOE Homeless Education Program serves as one of three Homeless Technical Assistance Centers (HETAC). The HETAC provide technical assistance to the 58 COE Homeless Liaison, who in turn support their district and charter LEAs; and

WHEREAS, the number of effective programs providing services and supports to youth experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County is only a fraction of what is needed to fully address the needs of these young people; additionally, the funding for homeless education is extremely limited and does not met the complex needs of this particular population; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Homeless Education Program supports each local education agency to empower homeless students and families through educational advocacy and support and promotes awareness and greater support for homeless students in schools and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognize that homelessness continues to be a serious problem for many students and families across Los Angeles County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaim November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education continue to encourage citizens across the county to recognize that many students lack fixed, regular and adequate housing and continue to encourage collaboration efforts between school districts, charter schools, early education and higher education systems, housing system, organizations serving homeless youth and the community to remove barriers and enable children and youth experiencing homelessness to successfully and fully participate in their education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education will continue to support outreach efforts to community partners for resources including

backpacks, school supplies, books and other needed items in an effort to address the educational needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness across Los Angeles County.

ADOPTED this 20th day of October 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