

**BOARD RESOLUTION**  
NO. 33: 2025-26

**Human Trafficking Awareness Month**  
(January 2026)

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a human rights violation and is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, sex acts, sale of body organs or slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, Los Angeles County has been identified as one of the nation's high-intensity areas for human trafficking of youth, is one of the nation's most populous counties in the country and is also the site for large numbers of children and youth being victimized through commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking - including commercial sexual exploitation, labor trafficking and trafficking for forced criminality - is a grave violation of fundamental human rights and children and youth are among the most vulnerable to exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, exploited youth are often students in the public school system and many suffer complex trauma, experience chronic absenteeism, poor academic performance and increased risk of dropping out; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking also affects highly vulnerable populations, including but not limited to the economically vulnerable, persons with disabilities and runaway youth, with disproportionate vulnerability for youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender; and

**WHEREAS**, race also has a profound impact on the risk of being trafficked, with Black youth representing more than 50% of all juvenile sex trafficking/victims; and

**WHEREAS**, schools and county education offices have a critical responsibility and opportunity to serve as safe places for children, to detect and respond to signs of exploitation and to support survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention education, trauma informed support for survivors and strong protocols for reporting and intervention can significantly reduce risk and improve outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, collaboration with community-based organizations, child welfare agencies, law enforcement and local service providers is essential to ensuring effective prevention, response and recovery supports; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles County Office of Education is dedicated to supporting schools, districts and communities in Los Angeles County by providing training, technical assistance, best practices, legislative updates and resources to combat human trafficking; and

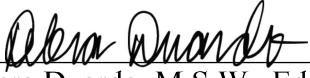
**WHEREAS**, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day will be recognized on January 11, 2026 and the month of January is recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; and

**WHEREAS**, LACOE will continue to collaborate with key partners and experts in this work, including the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County Leadership and Child Trafficking Team, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Department of Children and Family Services, University of Southern California, School of Social Work, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Victims of Crimes, MilionKids, STAR Court, Department of Mental Health and other local and community-based organizations that provide services and support for human trafficking survivors.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby declares January 2026 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and calls on districts, schools and community organizations in Los Angeles County to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to increase awareness of this horrific crime and promote prevention education to help end human trafficking.

**ADOPTED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2025, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.

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



James Cross  
Board President