

March 19, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – March 19, 2024

Item. VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 40: Declaring April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and April 24, 2024, as “Denim Day” at the Los Angeles County Office of Education

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 40 as part of the regular County Board meeting on March 19, 2024; and further recommends that the Board proclaim the month of April 2024 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” and designate April 24, 2024 as “Denim Day,” and urge everyone to wear jeans on April 24, 2024 to help communicate the message that there is “no excuse and never an invitation to harassment, abuse, assault, or rape.”

Board Resolution No. 40 is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE communication to all 80 districts to encourage districts, schools, and partner organizations to observe this month and with appropriate programs and activities.
- Highlight LACOE’s leadership and commitment to empowering youth and communities to raise awareness of and prevent sexual violence via social media.
- Ways schools can participate and acknowledge Denim Day.
- Wear Denim on Wednesday, April 24th to spread awareness against sexual assault.
- Take a picture in your denim and post on social media #DenimDay.
- Get involved by posting on social media encouraging your digital community to get involved.
- Volunteer your time with organizations that support this cause.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 40: 2023-24

Denim Day Proclamation

Declaring April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and April 24, 2024, as “Denim Day” at the Los Angeles County Office of Education

WHEREAS, the United States Government has declared April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and Peace Over Violence has declared April 24, 2024, as “Denim Day” in Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, both events are intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence remains a serious issue in our society. The magnitude of the problem has drawn public attention following the #MeToo movement, and cases of domestic violence, including sexual violence against women, trans women and girls, intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, an Italian Supreme Court decision overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. People all over the world were outraged. Wearing jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, Peace Over Violence (formerly known as the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women) organizes Denim Day in Los Angeles every April during National Sexual Assault Awareness month; and

WHEREAS, Denim Day seeks to highlight and eliminate attitudes that blame victims and prevent them from seeking assistance; and

WHEREAS, the recently released Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey report highlights an alarming increase in the number of teen girls who have experienced sexual violence and trauma with 1 out of every 5 teen girls experienced sexual violence in 2021.

WHEREAS, it is reported that every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted; and 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 high school students have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner; and 2 in 3 transgender people have been sexually assaulted; and

WHEREAS, the impact of sexual assault has long lasting consequences. Survivors of sexual assault often experience mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression, panic attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation, and are more likely to experience substance abuse; and

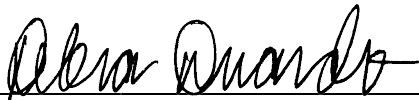
WHEREAS, with proper education on the matter and comprehensive prevention projects, sexual violence and its unfair and traumatizing effects are preventable; and

WHEREAS, by participating in Denim Day activities, we promote prevention through education; make it possible for more survivors of sexual assault to reach out and find help; and help everyone to understand the critical role they play in preventing violence against women; and

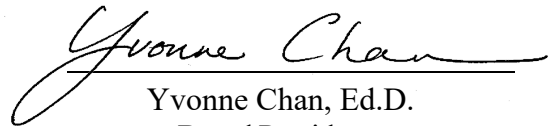
WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools and members of the Los Angeles County Board of Education strongly support the efforts of Peace Over Violence to educate persons in our community about the true impact of sexual harassment, abuse, assault and rape in Southern California; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” designate April 24, 2024 as “Denim Day,” and urge everyone to wear jeans on April 24, 2024 to help communicate the message that there is “no excuse and never an invitation to harassment, abuse, assault, rape.”

ADOPTED this 19th day of March 2024 by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California



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



Yvonne Chan, Ed.D.
Board President