

March 19, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – March 19, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

F. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 45 to Recognize April as National Arab American Heritage Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 45 as part of the regular County Board meeting on DATE; and further recognized April as National Arab American Heritage Month and encourages communities to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate and recognize the contributions of Arab Americans to our country and communities and combat prejudice and hate against Arab American community members.

Resolution No. 45 follows on the next page.

Next Steps:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.
- Provide support to districts to implement ethnic studies with intentionality of including the history and contributions of the group identified.
- Continue our efforts to uplift and celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion through programs and events, with a focus on individual and collective care and wellbeing.

BOARD RESOLUTION

No. 45: 2023-24

Recognize April as National Arab American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, Arab American Heritage Month is celebrated in April each year to recognize the contributions and achievements of Arab Americans to the United States; and

WHEREAS, the diversity within the Arab American community enriches our nation and adds to the vibrant tapestry of American life with roots in 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen; and

WHEREAS, the Arab American community, also reflects the rich intersectional diversity of our country, with over half of Arab Americans estimated to be Christian despite a common misconception — not all Arabs are Muslim, nor are all Muslims from the Middle East and North Africa — as well as race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and ability.

WHEREAS, within this diverse community, Arab Americans are united by a common primary language—Arabic—as well as by shared history and culture; and

WHEREAS, there are estimated 3.7 million Arab Americans in the United States, with California being home to the largest number of Arab Americans of any state, with the largest population of Arab Americans calling Los Angeles home; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have been an integral part of the American fabric for over a century, contributing significantly to the fields of science, medicine, business, education, government, and culture; and

WHEREAS, bias and discrimination, including Anti-Arab sentiment and hate negatively impact the wellbeing and sense of belonging for diverse communities and our society as a whole; and

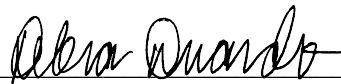
WHEREAS, it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the history, culture, and traditions of our diverse communities and to promote understanding and appreciation of all communities' contributions to our society; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Office of Education is deeply committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for all students, staff, and community members;

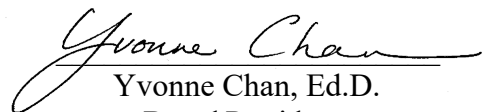
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognizes April 2024 as Arab American Heritage Month and encourages all schools and community members to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Arab Americans to our nation's history and culture with appropriate programs and activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that LACOE commits to incorporating educational resources and activities that highlight the history and achievements of Arab Americans into the curriculum during Arab American Heritage Month and throughout the year.

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