

April 16, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – April 16, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- E. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 51 to Recognize May 2024 as National Foster Care Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 51 as part of the regular County Board meeting on April 16, 2024; and further recommends that the Board recognize May 2024, as National Foster Care Month in order to recognize the unique needs of children and youth in foster care and increase both the awareness of the issue and their commitment to helping these young people succeed.

Resolution No. 51 follows on the next page.

Next Steps:

- Send LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe May as National Foster Care Month with appropriate programs and activities.
- Invite school districts, partners from child welfare/probation and community-based organizations to participate in professional development opportunities and access resources for students in foster care on the LACOE, Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program webpage.
- Publicly acknowledge and honor our district Foster Youth Liaisons at our in-person Quarterly meeting for their unwavering commitment and dedication to supporting our students in foster care while enhancing their academic success and overall well-being.

BOARD RESOLUTION
No. 51: 2023-2024

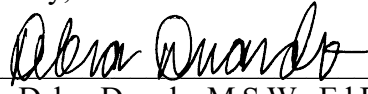
Adoption of Board Resolution No. 51: to recognize May 2024, as
National Foster Care Month

- WHEREAS** nearly 391,000 children and youth across the nation are entrusted to the foster care system, facing unique challenges and vulnerabilities; and
- WHEREAS** in Los Angeles County alone, nearly 24,000 children and youth reside in foster care; with approximately 14,300 of those children and youth being school-aged, highlighting the profound impact on our local community; and
- WHEREAS** students in foster care are identified as a unique student population under the Local Control Funding Formula and Local Control Accountability Plan due to being one the lowest academically achieving group of students in California; and
- WHEREAS** the older students in foster care continue to face housing and food insecurities due to the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the ongoing need for support; and
- WHEREAS** Wellbeing and Support Services and Educational Program Departments provide comprehensive support to our vulnerable and at-risk students, utilizing a range of interventions aimed at enhancing their overall well-being and educational outcomes; and
- WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Office of Education serves as a beacon of support and technical expertise through its Foster Youth Services Coordinating Programs, fostering collaboration among school districts, community partners, and county agencies to address the unique needs of students in foster care, with a focus on healing from trauma and achieving academic success; and
- WHEREAS** the first National Foster Care Month originated in 1988, through the collaborative efforts of the National Foster Parent Association and United States Senator Strom Thurmond, who introduced a resolution designating May as National Foster Care Month. Since then, the month of May has been officially recognized annually through presidential proclamations, showcasing appreciation for all those who support children and youth in foster care; and
- WHEREAS** for 2024 the Children’s Bureau and Child Welfare Information Gateway created the theme of “Engaging Youth. Building Supports. Strengthening Opportunities.” which highlights the crucial role of all stakeholders in assisting children and youth to leave care with strengthened connections, holistic support, and expanded opportunities; and
- WHEREAS** organizations across the nation have declared May as Foster Care Month to recognize resource parents, relative/nonrelative caregivers, volunteers, mentors, advocates, child welfare representatives, and others within the community and to increase awareness of the urgent needs of children and youth in foster care; and

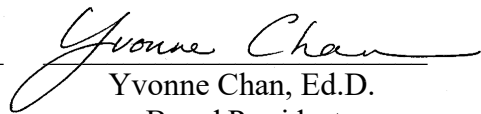
WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Office of Education will demonstrate its commitment to improve the educational outcomes of children and youth in foster care by supporting National Foster Care Month events throughout Los Angeles County during the month of May in 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Board of Education, hereby declares May as National Foster Care Month and hereby requests that elected officials in the County of Los Angeles and all of its citizens recognize the unique needs of children and youth in foster care and increase both the awareness of the issue and their commitment to helping these young people succeed.

ADOPTED this 16th day of April 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