

September 17, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – September 17, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

J. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 18 to Recognize October 2024 as Head Start Awareness Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Resolution No. 18 as part of the regular County Board meeting on September 17, 2024; and further recommends that the County Board recognize October 2024 as Head Start Awareness Month and encourage communities to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that recognize the value of the Head Start program in serving as a springboard to launch each child and family toward their fullest potential.

Board Resolution No. 18 is attached.

**Next Steps:**

- Post videos of Head Start parents, children, alumni and staff on social media to share their Head Start stories with the community.
- Educate policy makers on the value of high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education to children, families and communities.
- Represent and highlight Head Start in community events and activities and through strategic partnerships.
- Continue to partner with colleges, school districts and nonprofit organizations to create opportunities for interested individuals to pursue careers in early childhood education.

**BOARD RESOLUTION**

**No. 18: 2024-2025**

**Head Start Awareness Month (October)**

- WHEREAS** Head Start is a federally funded early education program founded in 65 to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by supporting the whole child and whole family; and
- WHEREAS** the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has provided Head Start services since 1979 and is the largest Head Start grantee in California, serving approximately 7,500 children and families each year; and
- WHEREAS** Head Start offers a comprehensive prenatal-to-five education program that gives children and families the skills to succeed in school and life; and
- WHEREAS** Head Start engages and empowers parents as their children’s first and best teachers through collaboration and meaningful participation in the program; and
- WHEREAS** Recognizing that 90 percent of brain development happens before the age of five, Head Start programs provide comprehensive health, nutritional, educational and social services from pregnancy through kindergarten entry to build the foundation for school readiness and success; and
- WHEREAS** Head Start is committed to the healthy development of each child and provides preventive and early intervention services to children and families; and
- WHEREAS** Head Start is dedicated to serving children with disabilities through provision of individualized supports in inclusive settings; and
- WHEREAS** Research has shown that children who participate in Head Start are less likely to be chronically absent or held back a grade in elementary or middle school, more likely to graduate high school and attend college and more likely to be financially self-sufficient and in better health as adults; and
- WHEREAS** Head Start staff help families identify needs and accomplish goals, such as enrolling in education or job training and housing assistance; and

**WHEREAS** Head Start is a direct investment in local communities, with federal funding provided directly to local organizations who make program decisions based on assessment of community conditions; and

**WHEREAS** Parents are provided options to fit their particular needs, including enrolling their child in a center-based, home-based or family child care setting; and

**WHEREAS** Head Start educators—including teachers, aides, home visitors, family service workers and other staff—make a lifelong difference for children and families by building a solid foundation that includes quality education and healthy practices; and

**WHEREAS** President Ronald Reagan first designated October 1982 as Head Start Awareness Month, recognizing that “the involvement of parents, volunteers and the community...and the services provided by dedicated Head Start staff have been instrumental in creating a quality program that truly provides young children with a ‘head start’ in life”;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaims October 2024 as Head Start Awareness Month and encourages communities to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that highlight the value of the Head Start program and the importance of high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education to children, families and communities.

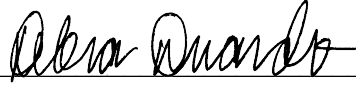
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognizes that the early care and education needs of children and families must become a top priority for decision makers at all levels as investment of financial resources and talent in programs like Head Start is investment in the present and future of our children, families and communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education encourages all parents of young children to participate in literacy activities, such as reading a book with your child, singing songs with your child and going to the library with your child during the month of October.

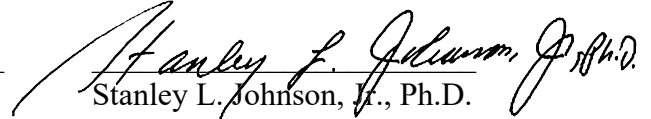
**NOW, THEREFORE, FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED** that the Los Angeles County Board of Education calls on high schools, colleges and all organizations that engage with students considering their future career path to highlight the rewards of a career in early childhood education.

**ADOPTED**

this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



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



Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.  
Board President