

October 15, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – October 15, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 20 to Recognize November 2024 as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board take action and approve Board Resolution No. 20 and continue to support the McKinney-Vento Assistance Act and Education Code that requires County Offices of Education to support the work of Homeless Liaisons in each of our LEAs. This work includes providing training, technical assistance, housing supports with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), statewide work through the Homeless Technical Assistance Centers (HETAC) and collaboration with community partners for resources, such as backpacks, school supplies, books, tutoring serves and other needed items and services in an effort to address the educational needs of homeless youth across Los Angeles County.

Board Resolution No. 20 follows on the next page.

Next Steps:

- The Homeless Education Program provides a planning guide for Homeless Youth Awareness Month in October to the Homeless Liaisons in our 80 Districts & 370 Charters schools to help them plan for awareness related activities in the month of November.
- HETAC (Homeless Technical Assistance Centers) will provide statewide resources to help COEs and LEAs bring awareness to Homeless Youth Awareness Month.
- LACOE Homeless Education Program will send out weekly resources in November, including encouraging everyone to wear green on Fridays.
- LACOE's Homeless Education Program will use their social media accounts to highlight Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

BOARD RESOLUTION No. 20: 2024-25
National Homeless Youth Awareness Month 2024

- WHEREAS** On July 11, 2007, the U.S. Congress established November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month; and
- WHEREAS** Nationally, 3% of all school-age children will experience homelessness; 1 in 30 youth ages 13 to 24 and 1 in 10 young adults aged 18 to 25 in the United States experience some form of homelessness over the course of a year; and
- WHEREAS** While unemployment rates may have stabilized, inflation rates, cost of living, low wages and lack of affordable housing are resulting in a significant increase in the numbers of students and families experiencing homelessness across the state and the nation; and
- WHEREAS** The Los Angeles County Office Homeless Education Program, the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognize the devastating impact homelessness has on students and are tirelessly working with districts and charters to support this vulnerable and growing population with resources and supplies and continue to serve as partners for consultation and collaboration; and
- WHEREAS** more than half of all children in Housing and Urban Development shelters are under the age of five; homelessness in infancy and toddlerhood has been linked to future child welfare involvement, concerns related to mental health due to the impact of trauma caused by being homeless and early school failure; and
- WHEREAS** only 88% of children experiencing homelessness are enrolled in school; up to 45% do not attend school on a regular basis; students experiencing homelessness are a greater risk of being chronically absent than their housed peers; and
- WHEREAS** the estimated rate of chronic absence for students experiencing homelessness is twice the rate of housed students; 21% repeat a grade because of frequent absences from school; chronic absenteeism is associated with lower academic achievement and higher dropout rates; and
- WHEREAS** within a single school year 40% of students experiencing homelessness attend two different schools; students experiencing homelessness experience greater school mobility than their housed peers, which can cause interruptions to a student's education; and
- WHEREAS** students experiencing homelessness are 87% more likely than their stably- housed peers to drop out of school; and face significant gaps in high school graduation rates compared to their housed peers and are more likely to rely on public assistance; and

WHEREAS youth cite family conflict and breakdown, abuse or neglect, alcohol or drug addiction of a family member, pregnancy and rejection over sexual orientation as the major reason for their homelessness or episodes of running away from home; and

WHEREAS unaccompanied homeless youth (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) face serious health and safety threats, including higher risk of physical and sexual abuse and trafficking and many are victimized repeatedly; and

WHEREAS Los Angeles County, in the 2023-2024 school year, preliminarily identified nearly 60,000 homeless students from infancy through grade 12. This is another significant increase since the 2021-2022 school year and includes a growing number of unaccompanied youth and youth with their families who lack stable housing, that experienced homelessness at least one day out of the year; and

WHEREAS the future well-being of our county depends on the value we place on our children and youth, and, in particular, on our actions to provide these most vulnerable of children and young people with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to find and maintain stable housing and develop into healthy, self-sufficient adults; and

WHEREAS the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act requires every local education agency to appoint a liaison for homeless education to ensure proper identification, immediate enrollment and linkages to other educational services and resources for which students experiencing homelessness are eligible; in addition, the LACOE Homeless Education Program serves as one of three Homeless Technical Assistance Centers (HETAC). The HETAC provide technical assistance to the 50 COE Homeless Liaison, who in turn support their district and charter LEAs; and

WHEREAS the number of effective programs providing services and supports to youth experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County is only a fraction of what is needed to fully address the needs of these young people; additionally, the funding for homeless education is extremely limited and does not meet the complex needs of this particular population; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Homeless Education Program supports each local education agency to empower homeless students and families through educational advocacy and support and promotes awareness and greater support for homeless students in schools and the community; and

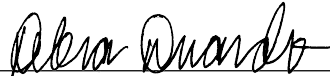
WHEREAS the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education recognize that homelessness continues to be a serious problem for many students and families across Los Angeles County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby proclaim November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month; and

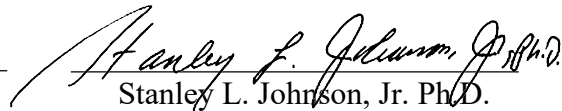
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education continue to encourage citizens across the county to recognize that many students lack fixed, regular and adequate housing and continue to encourage collaboration efforts between school districts, charter schools, early education and higher education systems, organizations serving homeless youth and the community to remove barriers and enable children and youth experiencing homelessness to successfully and fully participate in their education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and the Los Angeles County Board of Education will continue to support outreach efforts to community partners for resources including backpacks, school supplies, books and other needed items in an effort to address the educational needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness across Los Angeles County.

ADOPTED this 15th day of October 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