

November 12, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – November 12, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 24: International Migrants Day, December 18, 2024

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 24. The Superintendent further recommends that the County Board declare December 18 as International Migrants Day and encourages districts and communities to observe this day by commemorating the often difficult journeys of immigrants, honoring the contributions made by migrants worldwide and promoting respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Board resolution is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Distribute LACOE communication to all 80 districts with the goal of encouraging districts, schools, and community organizations to actively observe this important day. It is essential to commemorate the often-challenging journeys that immigrants undertake, recognizing the resilience and courage they exhibit in seeking better opportunities. Additionally, should honor the significant contributions made by migrants across the globe, celebrating the rich cultural diversity they bring to our communities.
- LACOE's Immigrant Relations Program will share the following list of books with districts:
 - Interpreter of Maladies, by Jhumpa Lahiri (Young Adult)
 - The Education of a Wetback? by Marcos Antonio Hernandez (Young Adult)
 - The New Kids: Big Dreams and Brave Journeys at a High School for Immigrants Teens, by Brooke Hauser (Young Adult)
 - I Was Their American Dream, by Malaka Gharib (Young Adult)
 - Two White Rabbits, by Jairo Buitrago (Ages 4-10)
 - Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation, by Edwidge Danticat & Leslie Staub (Ages 4-10)
 - My Beautiful Birds, by Suzanne Del Rizzo (Ages 4-10)
- LACOE's Immigrant Relations Program will inform school districts, stakeholders, and community members about upcoming events supporting International Migrants Day.

- Encourage school districts to embrace International Migrants Day by organizing engaging activities. These could include exploring the rich cultural heritage of students' native countries, such as sampling traditional foods, appreciating unique art forms, enjoying traditional music, and learning about popular sports. Additionally, schools can design assignments that foster more profound understanding, empathy, and respect for migrant experiences.
- Use social media platforms to raise awareness about International Migrants Day. Create dedicated hashtags and share informative posts, news articles, stories, and testimonials from migrants, students, teachers, and community members that highlight their experiences, challenges, and contributions.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 24: 2024-25

International Migrants Day (December 18, 2024)

WHEREAS, on December 18, 1990, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a significant resolution concerning the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. This pivotal document was designed to elevate awareness that migrants are more than just laborers; they are human beings with dignity and rights. They contribute substantially to the global economy, often taking on essential roles that support both their host countries and their communities of origin.

WHEREAS, every year on December 18, the International Organization for Migration commemorates International Migrants Day, a significant occasion dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions made by migrants around the globe. This day serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of respecting and safeguarding the human rights of migrants, who navigate diverse challenges and opportunities in their pursuit of a better life. It highlights the fact that migration is not just an individual experience, but a shared global phenomenon intricately woven into the very fabric of our societies, economies, and cultures.

WHEREAS, the United Nations' declaration of International Migrants Day represents a significant milestone, providing a unified platform for advocates dedicated to safeguarding the rights and well-being of migrants. This observance emphasizes the importance of global collaboration in tackling the myriad challenges and issues migrant populations face. Still, it also serves as an opportunity to celebrate the dynamic energy and rich cultural diversity migrants contribute to their communities.

WHEREAS, in Los Angeles County, an estimated 22% of children grow up in families with mixed immigration status, meaning that at least one parent is an immigrant. It is crucial to deeply understand and appreciate these immigrant families' intricate realities and challenges. At the same time, we must recognize their remarkable resilience and the significant contributions they make to our society, highlighting their positive influence on their communities and the region's cultural fabric.

WHEREAS, LACOE acknowledges the profound and disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on immigrant families, many of whom worked tirelessly as essential workers, providing crucial services that sustain our communities. These families faced significant hardships, largely stemming from the pervasive fear that seeking public assistance could expose them to the risk of deportation. LACOE further recognizes that this anxiety, fueled by widespread misinformation regarding the potential “risks” of accessing public services, has exacerbated these challenges. This fear has created substantial barriers to obtaining essential support, including healthcare, food assistance, education, and economic relief, all of which are vital for the well-being of these families and the communities they serve.

WHEREAS, LACOE is firmly dedicated to safeguarding the constitutional right of every child to access a free public education, irrespective of their immigration status; and is passionately committed to promoting policies and practices that protect this fundamental right. LACOE strives to ensure that schools serve as welcoming and secure environments for all students, allowing them to thrive academically and socially. Furthermore, we are devoted to ensuring that every child has equitable educational opportunities, empowering them to reach their full potential.

WHEREAS, LACOE, particularly through its Immigrant Relations Program, Multilingual Academic Support Unit, Migrant Education Program, and Student Support Services Unit, is dedicated to providing immigrant and refugee students with safe and welcoming learning environments. LACOE aims to ensure these students access the necessary resources to be healthy, feel safe and supported, thrive, and experience a sense of belonging in schools and the community. We strive to guarantee that all students receive the essential resources and support systems needed for academic, social, and emotional success.

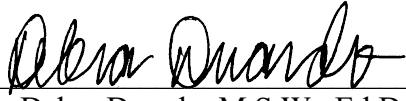
WHEREAS, LACOE continues to fully support LA County's 80 school districts and local educational agencies (LEAs) in addressing the needs of immigrant and refugee students and their families. This support includes providing LEAs with technical assistance and the necessary tools to help these students succeed. Additionally, LACOE offers resources for socio-emotional support and advocates for policies that protect the rights of all students.

WHEREAS, schools play a central role in communities as trusted resources for immigrant children and their families. LACOE's Immigrant Relations program aims to empower school districts, parents, and students by providing timely information and support regarding immigration laws and policies. The program also facilitates access to services for immigrant communities, ensures that schools comply with policies protecting students and their families, and acts as a liaison for immigrant communities in LA County. This is achieved by fostering meaningful connections between nonprofit agencies, schools, students, and parents.

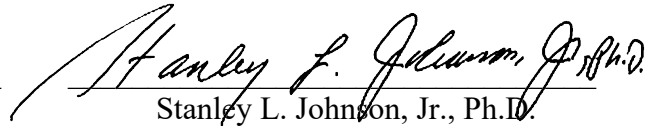
WHEREAS, LACOE celebrates the cultural mosaic that makes up its workforce and recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions of immigrants among its staff. It strives to lead equity, diversity, and inclusion by fostering an environment where differences are valued and inclusivity is championed. We acknowledge that our diverse staff brings unique perspectives, ideas, and experiences that enrich the organization and its mission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby declares December 18 as International Migrants Day and encourages districts and communities to observe this day by commemorating the often difficult journeys of immigrants, honoring the contributions made by migrants worldwide and promoting respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

ADOPTED this 12th day of November 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