

December 17, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – December 17, 2024

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 26 to Recognize January 20, 2025 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day,

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 26. The Superintendent further recommends that the County Board declare January 20, 2025 as Martin Luther King Day to honor his life and legacy; and encourages students, families and school staff to make a positive impact in their communities by giving back through volunteer work as part of the National Day of Service; and calls on education communities to reflect on social issues, including racism, that Dr. King sought to address and to honor Dr. King by living out his teachings as we continue to work for the day when the dignity of every person is respected and equity and social justice are realized by all.

Board Resolution No. 26 is shown on the following page:

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.
- Celebrate the day through LACOE Communications channels.
- Talking About Race as Healing Practice workshops will be offered by LACOE's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Division in collaboration with WestEd.
- The 35th African American Heritage Student Scholarship Luncheon will be hosted by the African American Heritage Committee on February 12, 2025.
- The Los Angeles County Office of Education recognizes the continuing impact of racism as a public health crisis that undermines our individual and collective wellbeing and is committed to ensuring that education in Los Angeles County uplifts the life, legacy and dream articulated by Dr. King. To this end, we have developed tools and trainings for educators to support the African American Learner, are leading efforts to implement Ethnic Studies across Los Angeles County, combat false narratives around Critical Race Theory and have committed to modeling organizational excellence in our own efforts to eliminate racism, mitigate the impacts of implicit bias on educational and life outcomes and foster belonging and connectedness within our organization and our broader educational community.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 26: 2024-25

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day


(January 20, 2025)

- WHEREAS,** the third Monday in January has been observed as a national holiday in commemoration of the birthday of civil rights icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
- WHEREAS,** Dr. King believed in a philosophy of nonviolence in advocating for social justice and equity for African Americans and other underrepresented groups; and
- WHEREAS,** he had a dream to one day live in a nation where people would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character; and
- WHEREAS,** he led a movement that brought about desegregation, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and a national awareness of racial injustice; and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal; and
- WHEREAS,** in these challenging times when the nation continues to confront the challenges of discrimination and racism, it is especially important to celebrate Dr. King’s life and legacy; and
- WHEREAS,** as Dr. King championed justice and equality, he recognized that educational inequality is one of the major obstacles to achieving these ideals; and LACOE is part of a movement to address this challenge; and
- WHEREAS,** this day has also been designated by Congress as a National Day of Service, a day held to pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. King who said that *“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve”* and that the National Day of Service helps to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers and address social problems; and
- WHEREAS,** LACOE has a responsibility to promote good citizenship and civic responsibility for our students, and highlighting this day designed for community service and engagement is a great vehicle for this goal; and
- WHEREAS,** Ethnic Studies has been established as a graduation requirement for high school students across California, beginning with the graduating class of 2029-2030, African-American studies is essential in order to prepare young people to understand, recognize and value the history, culture, challenges, and contributions of African-Americans in American society, past and present

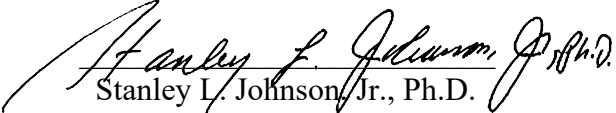
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education hereby declares January 20, 2025 as Martin Luther King Day to honor his life and legacy; and encourages students, families and school staff to make a positive impact in their communities by giving back through volunteer work as part of the National Day of Service; and calls on education communities to reflect on social issues, including racism, that Dr. King sought to address and to honor Dr. King by living out his teachings as we continue to work for the day when the dignity of every person is respected and equity and social justice are realized by all.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Office of Education recognizes the continuing impact of racism as a public health crisis that undermines our individual and collective wellbeing and is committed to ensuring that education in Los Angeles County uplifts the life, legacy and dream articulated by Dr. King. To this end, we have developed tools and trainings for educators to support the African American Learner, are leading efforts to implement Ethnic Studies across Los Angeles County, combat false narratives around Critical Race Theory, and have committed to modeling organizational excellence in our own efforts to eliminate racism, mitigate the impacts of implicit bias on educational and life outcomes and foster belonging and connectedness within our organization and our broader educational community.

ADOPTED this 17th day of December 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