

Ms. Newbill - Recognizing Juneteenth and Advancing Historical Education During the 250th Anniversary of the United States (Res-065-25/26) (Waiver of Board Rule 72) **VERSION 2**

Whereas, This year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, providing an historic opportunity for reflection on the nation's progress, ideals, struggles, and continued pursuit of liberty and justice for all;

Whereas, The anniversary of the United States presents an important occasion to examine the full history of the nation, including the contributions, sacrifices, resilience, and leadership of African Americans whose labor, advocacy, military service, innovation, and civic participation have helped shape the country since its founding;

Whereas, Juneteenth, observed annually on June 19, commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas learned of their freedom, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, marking a pivotal moment in the nation's journey toward freedom and equality;

Whereas, Juneteenth stands as both a celebration of emancipation and a constant reminder of the continuing struggle to fulfill the founding principles of democracy, civil rights, voting rights, equal opportunity, and justice under law;

Whereas, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District recognizes that an accurate, inclusive, and comprehensive teaching of United States history strengthens civic engagement, cultural understanding, student achievement, and appreciation for the diversity of the American experience;

Whereas, The teaching of African American history, including the history of slavery, Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Movement, voting rights, military service, arts and culture, science, education, labor movements, and public leadership, is essential to ensuring students understand the nation's past and their role in shaping its future;

Whereas, Los Angeles Unified School District serves one of the most diverse student populations in the nation and remains committed to educational equity, culturally responsive instruction, academic excellence, and preparing students to become informed and engaged citizens;

Whereas, The observance of Juneteenth during the nation's 250th anniversary creates an opportunity for schools, students, educators, and families to engage in meaningful dialogue about freedom, democracy, civic responsibility, and the ongoing pursuit of a more perfect union; and

Whereas, The Board further recognizes the importance of student-centered educational opportunities including classroom instruction, assemblies, cultural programming, student essays and art projects, historical exhibitions, partnerships with museums and community organizations, and service-learning activities related to Juneteenth and the American story; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District hereby recognizes Juneteenth as a significant American observance commemorating emancipation, freedom, resilience, and the continuing pursuit of equality and justice;

Resolved further, That the Board acknowledges the 250th anniversary of the United States as an opportunity to deepen student understanding of American history through inclusive, factual, and culturally responsive educational programming;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent is encouraged to support instructional resources, curriculum enrichment, student activities, and partnerships that elevate the teaching of African American history and the significance of Juneteenth throughout the school year;

Resolved further, That schools are encouraged to engage students in age-appropriate educational activities that promote civic learning, historical understanding, respect for diversity, and appreciation for the democratic ideals upon which the nation was founded;

Resolved further, That Los Angeles Unified schools and offices are encouraged to commemorate Juneteenth and America's 250th anniversary through programs that inspire reflection, unity, service, leadership, and student engagement; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Board reaffirms its commitment to ensuring every student in Los Angeles Unified School District receives an education that reflects the richness of American history, honors diverse voices and experiences, and prepares students to participate fully in civic and democratic life. LAUSD continues to support respectful conduct of all students participating in every community celebration.