

Ms. Gonez, Dr. Rivas, Ms. Ortiz Franklin - Standing with Survivors and Recognizing Farmworkers (Res-052-25/26) (Waiver of Board Rule 72)

Whereas, Dolores Huerta, Ana Murguia, Debra Rojas and Esmeralda Lopez have demonstrated incredible courage in publicly sharing their experiences of grooming, abuse, and sexual assault by labor leader Cesar Chavez, prompting a broad public reckoning which correctly demands an acknowledgement of the egregious harm committed against girls and women, while affirming the Farm Workers' Movement should be understood for its collective legacy as a movement of the people, not any one individual;

Whereas, A recent *New York Times* investigation reported that multiple women, including those who were minors at the time, came forward with allegations of sexual abuse spanning several years, with accounts supported by corroborating evidence and patterns of harm;

Whereas, The United Farm Workers have responded to this moment by canceling planned celebrations, standing in support of survivors, and affirming that the abuse and sexual violence committed by Cesar Chavez are fundamentally incompatible with the movement's core values of justice and empowerment;

Whereas, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) demands an end to the pervasive cycle of men leveraging their positions of power to abuse, violate, and silence children and women and affirms the urgent need for justice and accountability;

Whereas, as previously recognized, including through resolutions such as “With Survivors, Always: Domestic & Dating Violence Prevention, Awareness and Support” in October 2025 (Res-022-25/26) and “Denim Day 2025 Raising Our Voices Against Sexual Violence” (Res-065-24/25), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) condemns all forms of abuse, including sexual violence, grooming, coercion, and exploitation, particularly when enabled by power, trust, or authority, and recognizes that grooming behaviors – often involving manipulation, secrecy, normalization of inappropriate conduct, and exploitation of trust – are a serious and harmful precursor to abuse that must be explicitly recognized, prevented, and addressed in educational settings;

Whereas, Sexual violence remains pervasive, with national data showing that approximately one in three women and one in six men experience sexual violence in their lifetime, often beginning at a young age, and that for minors, the harm is most often caused by someone they know, highlighting the role of trust, proximity, and power in enabling abuse (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network [RAINN]);

Whereas, Contrary to harmful myths, many survivors do report abuse, and barriers such as fear, stigma, retaliation, and power imbalances often shape when and how survivors are able to come forward, requiring institutions to actively reject victim-blaming and create conditions where survivors are supported and believed;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District affirms: we believe and stand with survivors;

Whereas, As an educational institution, LAUSD is committed to the safety of children and families and ensuring that the histories we uplift are accurate and provide students with role models who fully embody our values of equity and justice [including Dolores Huerta, as recognized in the April 2025 resolution “Honoring Dolores Huerta: Advancing Educational Equity, Civic Engagement, and Leadership for the Next Generation” \(Res-63-24/25\);](#)

Whereas, Schools play a critical role in equipping students with the knowledge, language, and tools to understand consent, power dynamics, and how to seek help in situations involving abuse or exploitation;

Whereas, It is essential that students engage with complex and accurate histories, including the contributions of Latino/a/x leaders and movements, while also confronting harm and injustice with honesty and integrity;

Whereas, This news has rightfully prompted immediate action at the state and local levels to reconsider how to properly commemorate this history and ensure that abusers are not celebrated, including renaming streets and other public spaces; and

Whereas, The District had previously designated March 31 as an unassigned day in its instructional calendar, reflecting the California State holiday established as Cesar Chavez Day; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District stands in solidarity with survivors, including Dolores Huerta, Ana Murguia, Debra Rojas, and Esmeralda Lopez who should never have been forced to endure the harm of the abhorrent and repetitive abuse and sexual violence committed against them, or carry the burden of society’s expectations in silence for decades;

Resolved further, That the Board continues to celebrate the achievements of the Farm Workers’ Movement that are the result of collective labor action and remain a testament to the power of the people to demand dignity, respect, and progress for workers’ rights and human rights;

Resolved further, That the Board recognizes that the causes the Movement has fought for remain relevant and urgent to this day, including workers' rights, immigrants' rights, and respect and dignity for all people;

Resolved further, That the Los Angeles Unified School District will commemorate March 31, 2026, as Farm Workers Day, honoring the collective contributions of farm workers and their enduring impact on our communities, and ensure that future instructional calendars reflect anticipated changes in the State holiday, which could include both the name and designated day;

Resolved further, That the District will ensure resources and counseling are made available to survivors of sexual violence within our school communities, for whom these revelations may be triggering and traumatic, including ensuring school sites have clear, confidential reporting pathways, trained staff, and trauma-informed supports for students impacted by sexual violence; and continue with its efforts already in progress to align instructional resources to the collective Farm Workers movement, rather than the history of one individual whose actions conflict inherently with our District's values;

Resolved further, That the District will ensure schools provide accessible, student- and family-friendly information on how to report incidents of sexual violence, including clear and confidential reporting pathways, who to contact, what to expect in the reporting process, and available protections and supports, and that this information is visibly posted in classrooms, included in student and family handbooks, and made available on school and District websites;

Resolved further, That the District will strengthen age-appropriate, culturally responsive instruction on consent, healthy relationships, and recognizing abuse, aligned with existing health education standards, leveraging resources and supports from survivor-informed organizations and experts, and provide professional development for staff on recognizing grooming behaviors, maintaining appropriate boundaries, and fulfilling mandated reporting responsibilities, including but not limited to the Every School Safe modules on Grooming Awareness and Child Abuse;

Resolved further, That the District will provide appropriate guidance and funding to school sites to immediately cover, to the extent allowable by law, any murals, statues or other visible reminders of Cesar Chavez on school property and a timely process for school sites to replace such artwork, in collaboration with interested students, families, staff, artists and community, and be it finally

Resolved, That the District, with meaningful engagement with students, families, educators, and community members, shall immediately commence an expedited process to rename the Cesar Chavez Learning Academies in San Fernando and Cesar Chavez Elementary School in El Sereno, bringing proposed new names that reflect the District's values of equity, justice, and community leadership to the Board for approval by no later than Fall 2026.