



## Honoring the Significance of April 24 in the Los Angeles Unified School District

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*(For Board action October 6, 2020)*

Whereas, On April 23, 2019 the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District adopted Remembering and Honoring the Armenian Genocide of 1915 (Res-036-18/19), which sought to explore ways to recognize Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day and, as appropriate, other diverse cultural holidays recognized by our families, in school calendars set to go into effect in the 2021-2022 school year;

Whereas, The adoption of a districtwide unassigned day in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide would keep the school calendar consistent across the district, avoiding transportation and staff challenges;

Whereas, The Armenian people were subjects of a systematic genocidal campaign, which began at the hands of the Ottoman government, in 1915 and continued under the Kemalist government of the Republic of Turkey from 1920 through 1923, whereby 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were killed or marched to their deaths in an effort to annihilate the Armenian Nation in the first modern genocide;

Whereas, This genocide has held lasting and permanent effects in removing all traces of the Armenians and other targeted people from their historic homelands, and enriching the perpetrators with the lands and other property of the victims of these crimes;

Whereas, The struggle for recognition of the Armenian Genocide remains significant as the Republic of Turkey has adamantly denied the occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young Turk rulers for many years, and continues to do so a full century since the first crimes constituting genocide occurred;

Whereas, Therefore every year, Armenian families in the District must make the decision on whether to miss a day of instruction to participate in remembrances of the Genocide as an integral part of their history and heritage by attending events on this day;

Whereas, As a result of participation in commemorative activities such as annual marches, student absences on April 24th are more than double the typical school day attendance in areas of the District with large Armenian communities;

Whereas, The District has a significant Armenian student population and has the opportunity to honor and remember the victims of the genocide; and

Whereas, All District students, regardless of ethnicity or national origin, would benefit from learning about the Armenian Genocide so that it and other state-sanctioned forms of ethnic cleansing may never happen again; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District hereby designates that April 24th shall be an unassigned day in future school calendars, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.