SAN LEANDRO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Leandro, CA

Resolution 20-05
Board Resolution in Support of Census 2020

WHEREAS, The United States Census, which is mandated by the Constitution of the United States of America, is intended to enumerate every person residing in the country regardless of citizenship status, and is fundamental to a fair and representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, The United States Census has critical political implications for the state of California as it determines our allocation of seats in the United States House of Representatives, which is critically important to legislative and budgetary matters; and

WHEREAS, The United States Census count is used to allocate billions of dollars in federal funding for education programs, such as Title I, school meals, Head Start, and special education, as well as important services that support the well-being of our students and families outside of school, such as WIC, Medicaid, food stamps (SNAP), foster care, Section 8 housing, child care, and highways funding; and

WHEREAS, According to the California Community Foundation 2017 Census Landscape Scan, the 1990 Census was one of the most inaccurate in United States history, and according to the California Legislative Analyst's Office, this likely cost California one seat in the United States House of Representatives and at least $2 billion in federal funds; and

WHEREAS, One million children across the country were undercounted in Census 2010; and

WHEREAS, Many families in the San Leandro Unified School District live in traditionally undercounted Census tracts and are considered "Hard-To-Count". A Hard-to-Count (HTC) index is used to indicate which Census tracts need the most attention to ensure a correct enumeration of its residents. The HTC index is determined by many factors, including the number of residents who are: children ages 0-5, homeless individuals and families, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning individuals, households with limited English proficiency, immigrants and refugees; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-six percent of Alameda County residents are considered Hard-To-Count; and

WHEREAS, For every Californian counted in the Census, the State receives an estimated $1,000 in federal funding annually, and thus, every resident not counted could lose California $10,000 over a decade; and

WHEREAS, A fair and accurate Census count in 2020 will help ensure that the District's communities, families, and students are represented in our democracy and receive critical social services, education programs, housing, health care, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, School districts, like ours, play an important role in sharing information about the Census because our school staff, principals, and teachers serve as trusted messengers to our students and families; and

WHEREAS, The 2020 Census faces a number of unprecedented challenges, including fear caused by the proposed – yet ultimately removed – citizenship question, concern over data privacy and cybersecurity in the first Census to rely heavily on online responses; and

WHEREAS, In February of 2017, the San Leandro Board of Trustees passed Amended Board Resolution No. 17-07 to show the board of education's commitment to the education of all children and affirms all district facilities and programs are a sanctuary for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement.; and

WHEREAS, The San Leandro Unified School District is committed to serving our diverse community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Leandro Unified School Board of Education is committed to ensuring that every student and family is counted in the 2020 Census; and

RESOLVED, That the San Leandro Unified School District will support efforts to ensure a complete count by incorporating Census outreach and education programming into existing programs, facilities, resources, and services for parents and students in languages spoken by District students and their families; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the District will explore other activities and maximize opportunities to ensure a complete count of our District families in 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on the 14th day of January, 2020.

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Peter Oshinski, Board President	Mike McLaughlin, Ed.D., Superintendent