

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
No. 1819-0101

Declaring September 15 to October 15 as Annual Latino Heritage Month In the District

**WHEREAS**, in 1988 U.S. Congress Public Law 100-402 established September 15 through October 15, annually, as National Latino Heritage Month, to celebrate and recognize the histories, cultures, and contributions Mexican Americans and Latino Americans have made to American society,

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates 56.5 million Latinos living in the United States, representing 17.5 percent of the total population, becoming the largest ethnic group in the U.S. and estimated to continually grow; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2017-18 school year, Latinos comprised 3,376,591 or 54.2% of all California public school students (6.2 million), and 80% of California's Latino children and youth are of Mexican heritage, per the U.S. Census Bureau; followed largely by Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Nicaraguan and various other heritages, and

**WHEREAS**, in the 2017-18 school year, Latinos comprise 15,400 or 41.8% of all students (37,000) in the Oakland Unified School District; and Latinos comprise 7,400 or 56% of all charter school students (13,100) in Oakland.

**WHEREAS**, in the mid-1700s, there were at least 10,000 indigenous people coexisting in about 40 distinct tribelets between Big Sur and the San Francisco Bay Area, They spoke dozens of unique languages and today we group them together as "Ohlone." They harvested acorns, wove baskets and built shell mounds. Almost all of the Ohlone died of as a result of the exposure to new diseases followed by despondency and malnutrition in the decades following the establishment of the California Missions.

**WHEREAS**, in the mid-1700s, prior to the arrival of the Spanish, Mexican and Americans to the East Bay of California, there were 10,000 indigenous people living here. The Ohlone cared for the natural resources and taught the explorers what foods were safe to eat and built the Spanish missions in Sonoma, San Rafael, and San Francisco areas; and

**WHEREAS**, today many Latino students throughout the state of California can trace their ancestral roots to the indigenous people of Latin America countries including Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Uruguay, and Venezuela Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the founding of the City of Oakland (1852), the Peralta Family settled in the East Bay in 1820 in what became Rancho San Antonio. The 44,000 acre Spanish land grant was made to Sgt. Luis Maria Peralta and he subdivided it to his four sons: Jose Domingo, Vicente, Antonio and Ignacio. The Peralta's ranch covered what is now the entire city of Oakland from the bay to the hills and from San Leandro to San Pablo. Antonio Peralta's home is a historical landmark is located in the Fruitvale neighborhood behind Life Academy and United for Success Middle Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, many of our students' ancestors also originated in the southwestern states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado and Oklahoma which were annexed from Mexico by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo at the end of the Mexican – American War of 1846-48; and

**WHEREAS**, many of our students' families originate from Mexico and Latin American countries who celebrate their independence from Spain in 1821 during the month of September, including Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México (1810) and Nicaragua; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1849, eight Latinos participated in the establishment of California's statehood, by participating in the First Constitutional Convention in Monterey, CA. The Latino delegates to the convention were: Antonio M. Pico, (San Jose) Jacinto Rodriguez (Monterey), Pablo de la Guerra (Santa Barbara), Mariano Vallejo (Sonoma), Jose Antonio Carrillo (Los Angeles), Manuel Dominguez (Los Angeles), Miguel de Pedrorena (San Diego), Jose Covarrubias (Santa Barbara); and

**WHEREAS**, one Latino has served as Governor of California, Romualdo Pacheco (1875), and four Latinos have served as Lieutenant Governor of California, Pablo de la Guerra (1861-62), Romualdo Pacheco (1871-75), Cruz Bustamante (1999-2007), Abel Maldonado (2010-2011), and;

**WHEREAS**, Latinos have fought to end racial segregation in our California public schools, especially in the cases of *Alvarez vs. Lemon Grove (1930)* which helped end segregation in San

Diego's Lemon Grove School District, and *Mendez v. Westminster (1945)*, which led then Governor Earl Warren to end the racial segregation of California's public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Latinos have successfully fought through the court system equity in schools, first for bilingual education in *Comite v. Honig (1982)*, second to ensure adequate financing of public schools in *Serrano v. Priest (1971)* and third for the right of all undocumented children to legally attend public school as with the U.S Supreme Court case of *Plyer v Doe (1982)*; and

**WHEREAS**, Latinos have fought for civil rights of all peoples, as in the California Supreme Court case of *Perez v. Sharp (1948)* which ruled that the state's ban on interracial marriage violated the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment; and in *Lopez v. Seccombe (1944)*, which outlawed the prohibition of Latinos from using swimming pools in the City of San Bernardino; and in *Doss v. Bernal (1943)* which outlawed residential segregation and housing discrimination in the City of Fullerton in Orange County; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard P. Mesa and Joe Coto, both Latinos, have served as the Superintendent of Oakland Unified School District; and

**WHEREAS**, many Mexican Americans and other Latinos have made valuable contributions nationally and internationally in the areas of art, music, government, law, education, science, labor, literature, media, medicine, military, religion, technology, sports, and theatre, are recognized annually during Latino Heritage Month; and

**WHEREAS**, American history reflects a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride on the part of the Latino population in its struggle to equally share in the opportunities of a nation founded upon the principle of freedom and liberty to all people; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the New American Economy (2015), Latino households are estimated to contribute \$119 billion in federal taxes and almost \$76 billion in state and local taxes. That means that in total Latinos pay \$215 billion in taxes each year.

**WHEREAS**, Latinos have served in all branches of the Armed Forces and have bravely fought in every war in the history of the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, Latinos harbor a deep commitment to family, community, and entrepreneurship leading to a lasting success that contributes great value to the American society; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that the history and curriculum of our schools, at every grade level, reflect the experiences of persons of different racial, religious and ethnic groups so that each student has the opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all groups.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Oakland Unified School District shall annually recognize September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup> as Latino Heritage Month, wherein schools shall promote appropriate instructional activities and engage celebrations of Latino heritage to recognize the histories, cultures, and significant contributions that Latinos have made in California, the U.S., and the world.

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:                   None

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:   None

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:           None

AYES:                   Jody London, Nina Senn, Roseann Torres, Shanthi Gonzales, James Harris  
Vice President Jumoke Hinton Hodge and President Aimee Eng

NOES:                   None

ABSTAINED:   None

RECUSE:           None

ABSENT:           None

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held on October 10, 2018.

<b>Legislative File</b>	
File ID Number:	18-1918
Introduction Date:	09/12/2018
Enactment Number:	
Enactment Date:	
By:	

**OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aimee Eng  
President, Board of Education

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Kyla Johnson-Trammell  
Superintendent and Secretary, Board of Education

