

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Alameda, California
Resolution

November 12, 2019

Resolution No. 2019-2020.17

Resolution In Support of Census 2020

WHEREAS, The United States Census, which is mandated by the U.S. Constitution, 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 House of Representatives, whom are our voice for critically important 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 1, school lunch, Head Start, and special education, as well as important services that support the well-being of our students and their families outside of school such as WIC, Medicare, food stamps (SNAP), foster care, Section 8 housing, child care, and highways funding; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Many families in the Alameda Unified School District live in traditionally undercounted Census tracts and are considered "Hard-To-Count" because their households consist of low-income persons, children ages 0-5, immigrants, renters, people without stable housing, people with limited-English proficiency, people of color, and people with disabilities; 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 \$1,000 in federal funding annually, and thus, every resident not counted would lose California nearly \$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 State of California has set aside over \$187 million for statewide Census 2020 outreach, including the development of Common Core aligned curriculum entitled "Count Me In!" to teach students in grades 5, 8, 11, and 12 about the Census, which will be made available to school districts; and

WHEREAS, The 2020 Census faces a number of unprecedented challenges, including rising distrust in government, fear caused by the proposed - yet ultimately removed – citizenship question, concern over data privacy and cybersecurity, and reduced funding by the Census Bureau for enumeration operations; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda Unified School District is committed to serving our diverse community; and in January 2017 became one of the first school districts in the state to declare itself a “Safe Haven” school district.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Alameda Unified School District Board of Education is committed to ensuring that every student and family is counted in the 2020 decennial Census.

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Alameda Unified School District will develop and implement a plan of action to ensure a complete count of District students and their families in Census 2020 Census. This plan shall include:

1. The creation of a partnership with community-based organizations, the Alameda County Office of Education, the Alameda County, the State of California, and the U.S. Census Bureau;
2. The incorporation of Census outreach and education programming into existing programs, facilities, resources, and services for parents and students in multiple languages spoken by District students and their families; and
3. The active participation of the District in the Alameda County Complete Count Committee to avoid duplication of efforts, identify gaps, coordinate outreach, and receive necessary training and materials; and, be it finally

FURTHERMORE BE IT 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 by the following vote this 12th day of November, 2019.

AYES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

NOES: _____ MEMBERS: _____

ABSENT: _____ MEMBERS: _____

Mialisa Bonta, President
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California

ATTEST:

By: _____
Pasquale Scuderi, Secretary
Board of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Alameda County, State of California