Illinois State Board of Education
RESOLUTION

Honoring
National Census Day
March 2020

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America requires the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct a count of the population every ten years. The upcoming decennial census begins on National Census Day April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Illinois receives billions of dollars in federal funding each year for vital programs that promote the education, health, and welfare of all Illinois residents. Census counts impact the distribution of federal funding for programs that are critical to Illinois children and families, such as Head Start, Medicaid, and the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs; and

WHEREAS, Illinois received more than $1,500 per capita in federal funds in 2015. Missing one child in the 2020 Census means missing out on federal funding for that child for the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, census data also determines each state’s number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, which affects Illinois’ ability to advocate for its residents; and

WHEREAS, responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Answers can only be used to produce statistics. By law, all responses to the census are kept completely confidential; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois 2020 Census Office has identified children birth to five, homeless individuals and families, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and those with limited access to the internet as among the hard to count populations; and

WHEREAS, schools interact with hard to count populations everyday and can play a central role in reaching out to communities across the state to ensure a complete 2020 Census count in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Board of Education hosted a Census EDU Summit in partnership with the Governor’s Office; hosted a Census EDU webinar featuring teachers, district administrators, and students sharing their own local census engagement plans and activities; distributed census fact sheets and classroom resources from the U.S. Census Bureaus’ Statistics in Schools program; and created a hub for census information at www.isbe.net/census;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Illinois State Board of Education recognizes April 1, 2020 as NATIONAL CENSUS DAY and encourages all schools across the state to share information about the 2020 Census with their communities.

Be it further resolved that the Illinois State Board of Education encourages all local school boards to pass resolutions affirming their commitment to a complete count in the 2020 Census.

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