

Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION No. 02-10 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY MR. ALEX PENELAS, MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS**

There are 953,181 children in the State of Florida under the age of five. Of those children almost 160,000 live in Miami-Dade County. According to Mayor Penelas' Universal Pre-kindergarten Whitepaper, 30% of the children in Miami-Dade County entering kindergarten are not ready for school socially, emotionally, and cognitively.

There is a growing national movement on behalf of our nation's youngest children. The gap in educational achievement and the high number of children in poverty have brought increasing attention of the need to provide high quality pre-kindergarten programs to promote later school success for all children.

Research indicates that it is essential to invest in high-quality pre-kindergarten programs. Miami-Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas has proposed a constitutional amendment initiative that will amend the state constitution to offer every four-year-old in Florida a free, high quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten learning opportunity. As stated in Mayor Penelas' Universal Pre-kindergarten Whitepaper, the intent is that establishing a statewide pre-kindergarten program should not be to the detriment of any existing state programming. The state should exhibit its commitment to the public's mandate for pre-kindergarten education by identifying a new funding source.

Approval is requested for Resolution No. 02-10 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the Florida Constitutional Amendment proposed by Mr. Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County Florida, for the implementation of universal pre-kindergarten programs for all four-year-old children.

This item does not appear in the published agenda. The good cause to vary from the agenda is for the Board to record its support for Mayor Penelas' proposal for a constitutional amendment that will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners, Tuesday, February 12, 2002, at noon.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-10 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the Florida Constitutional Amendment proposed by Mr. Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida, for the implementation of universal pre-kindergarten programs for all four-year-old children.

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-10**  
**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR THE**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS**  
**PROPOSED BY MR. ALEX PENELAS, MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,**  
**FLORIDA**

**WHEREAS**, 30% of the children who enter school are already behind intellectually, socially, emotionally, or physically; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies have substantiated the success of children who participate in high quality pre-kindergarten programs; and

**WHEREAS**, a universal statewide pre-kindergarten program will ensure that every child develops the social, emotional, and cognitive skills needed for school success and success later in life; and

**WHEREAS**, states such as Georgia, New York, Oklahoma, and North Carolina have invested in statewide pre-kindergarten programs; and

**WHEREAS**, research tells us that for every dollar invested in the early years of a child's life, seven dollars are saved in special education, remedial programs, juvenile justice and governmental assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, as stated in Mayor Penelas' Universal Pre-kindergarten Whitepaper, the intent is that establishing a statewide pre-kindergarten program should not be to the detriment of any existing state programming. The state should exhibit its commitment to the public's mandate for pre-kindergarten education by identifying a new funding source.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 02-10, submitted by Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting the Florida Constitutional Amendment proposed by Mr. Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida, for the implementation of universal pre-kindergarten programs.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary