

Education  
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 03-16 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA, ENDORSING APRIL 21-26, 2003, AS "HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WEEK" IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED DISTRICT AND SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

**COMMITTEE:       EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

Permission is sought for District support of HIV/AIDS Awareness Week. This approval will reemphasize the School Board's commitment to the mission and objectives of HIV/AIDS awareness. The major goal is to reduce infection of HIV in the adolescent population. Currently, twenty-five percent of all new infections in the United States occur in persons between the ages of 13-22.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has participated in HIV/AIDS Awareness Week through the initiation and promotion of positive, consciousness-raising activities, each of which has been designed specifically to increase students' awareness of healthy, positive behaviors. These activities include the use of the curriculum, "AIDS: Get The Facts!", distribution of informative literature, school announcements, speakers, videos, and contests. Further, the HIV/AIDS education District staff has sought the encouragement of local businesses and agencies for the approval of April 21 - 26, 2003, as AIDS Awareness Week.

Staff involved in HIV/AIDS education programs, both at the District and school levels may also contact various businesses and organizations for their collaboration. Activities for HIV/AIDS Week may include:

- decorating schools, offices, and satellite centers;
- holding an Awareness March around the school with posters against HIV/AIDS;
- providing information on HIV/AIDS during morning announcements;
- implementing lessons from the "AIDS: Get The Facts!" curriculum;
- having students create awareness messages to be announced on in-school T.V.;

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- inviting drama classes/clubs to create skits to present to schools;
- holding a poster, essay or rap contest with awareness messages;
- scheduling speakers from the Approved Speakers Bureau to talk about the effects of HIV/AIDS on society;
- encouraging students to join extra curricular activities;
- encouraging older students to talk with younger students about the importance of abstinence and universal precautions;
- wearing red ribbons during HIV/AIDS Awareness Week;
- inviting music teachers to create songs;
- displaying books of interest in the media center;
- encouraging Dade Partners to participate with schools in their displays; and
- endorsing for HIV/AIDS Awareness Week.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. endorse the week of April 21-26, 2003, as HIV/AIDS Awareness Week in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to encourage continued District and school participation.

MT/LG:cac

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-16  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF APRIL 21 - 26, 2003  
HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has designated April 21 of each year as World AIDS Day, a day to expand and strengthen the worldwide effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has estimated 33.4 million people to be living with HIV/AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, every minute, five young people around the globe are infected with HIV; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 1 in 250 Americans is currently HIV positive and more than 750,000 individuals have been diagnosed with AIDS in the United States since 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 410,800 deaths in the United States have been caused by AIDS since 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 753,907 AIDS cases in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida ranks third among states in the nation with reported cases of AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami ranks second among cities in the nation with reported cases of children with AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 4 new HIV infections in America occurs in people between the ages of 13-22;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve resolution No. 03-16 proclaiming April 21 - 26, 2003, as "HIV/AIDS Awareness Week" to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS as a local challenge, to promote HIV/AIDS prevention activities and programs, and to join the global effort to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS.

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

Presented this twelfth day of March, A.D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary