

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 06-42 PROMOTING STUDENT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ENDORSING THE PARTICIPATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE INTERNATIONAL "WALK OUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DAY" ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2006

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The tenth annual international "Walk Our Children to School Day", planned for Wednesday, October 4, 2006, promotes pedestrian safety education and awareness for the benefit of students across the nation that walk to school every day. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) unanimously endorsed this event at its May 25, 2006 meeting, and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee endorsed the event at its meeting on May 24, 2006. This event is also sponsored nationwide by the National SAFE KIDS Coalition.

According to the MPO, one hundred seventy-two (172) children under the age of fourteen (14) were injured, and three (3) children were killed in 2004, as a direct result of pedestrian accidents in Miami-Dade County. These numbers represent a decrease in injuries as compared to previous years.

Similar to last year's event, the international "Walk Our Children to School Day" is an exercise in safety involving students, parents, and schools to make pedestrian safety a priority for all children.

Listed below is a summary of the many benefits this event has to offer:

- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes safe walking skills. The event increases the awareness of safe walking skills and safe routes to school for both students and parents.
- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes physical health and activity. This event increases the awareness that walking is an exercise promoting good health and physical fitness.
- "Walk Our Children to School Day" promotes concern for the environment. Walking to school helps to reduce school-related traffic and pollution, which promotes a cleaner and healthier environment for everyone.

- “Walk Our Children to School Day” promotes increased driver awareness for pedestrians around schools. This event helps to reinforce the importance of reducing traffic speed and obeying the school speed zone limits around schools.

In conjunction with this program, it is recommended that the “WalkSafe” Pedestrian Safety Program curriculum be implemented to coincide with the “Walk Our Children To School Day” event. The “WalkSafe” Program was developed and implemented by the Ryder Trauma Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Medical Center to reduce pediatric pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

To this end, the Board is asked to join in promoting student pedestrian safety and awareness on international “Walk Our Children to School Day,” on October 4, 2006.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
VICE CHAIR MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 06-42, promoting student pedestrian safety and directing the Superintendent to encourage all Miami-Dade County Public Schools to participate in the International “Walk Our Children to School Day” on October 4, 2006. In conjunction with this program, it is further recommended that the “WalkSafe” Pedestrian Safety Program curriculum be implemented during the week of the event.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-42
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROMOTING STUDENT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND ENDORSING THE
PARTICIPATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
IN THE INTERNATIONAL "WALK OUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DAY" ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2006. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS PROGRAM, IT IS FURTHER
RECOMMENDED THAT THE "WALKSAFE" PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM BE
IMPLEMENTED DURING THE WEEK OF THE EVENT

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, promotes and encourages student pedestrian safety in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the "Walk our Children To School Day" program promotes pedestrian safety education and awareness for the benefit of students that walk to and from school every day; and

WHEREAS, "Walk Our Children To School Day" promotes increased driver awareness for pedestrians around schools; and

WHEREAS, "Walk Our Children To School Day" helps reinforce the importance of reducing traffic speed and obeying the school speed zone limits around schools; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, affirms the significance and importance of learning safe walking skills.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 06-42 endorsing participation in the International "Walk Our Children To School Day" on Wednesday, October 4, 2006. In conjunction with this program, it is further recommended that the "WalkSafe" Pedestrian Safety Program curriculum be implemented during the week of the event.

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

Presented this fourteenth day of June, 2006

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY