

Office of the School Board Members
Board Meeting of April 18, 2007

April 12, 2007

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 07-24 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
PROCLAIMING APRIL 2007 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH IN
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

**STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
COMMUNICATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT**

As the number of young children diagnosed with autism rises in this country, it is essential to raise public awareness about this puzzling disorder. April is National Autism Awareness Month, an awareness initiative established in 1972, by the Autism Society of America (ASA). Today, ASA, along with nearly 200 local chapters across the nation, promote activities and events during the month of April to raise awareness and inform communities across the nation about autism and the need for these children and their families to receive the support they need. Recognizing the importance of early diagnosis and adequate educational resources for these children, the Special Education Department of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) offers a full range of services and support for the 1700 students who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. This year M-DCPS students and staff participated in the annual walk-a-thon, "Miami-Dade Walk," to raise awareness and funds for autism research, raising a total of \$500,000.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
ANA RIVAS LOGAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 07-24 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proclaiming the month of April 2007 as Autism Awareness Month.

**REPLACEMENT
H-16**

**RESOLUTION NO. 07-24
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
PROCLAIMING APRIL 2007 AS "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH" AND TO
INCREASE AWARENESS OF THIS DISORDER IN ALL MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the number of children diagnosed with autism is increasing in the nation, making it necessary for communities to raise public awareness about autism spectrum disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Special Education Department of Miami-Dade County Public Schools offers a full range of services and resources to 1700 students who have been diagnosed with autism; and

WHEREAS, M-DCPS educational programs provided to these students include one-to-one and group instruction to help each child learn valuable pre-vocational and life skills; and

WHEREAS, in support of students with autism and their families, Miami-Dade County Public Schools students and staff participate in an annual walk-a-thon to raise awareness and funds for autism research, raising a total of \$500,000 this year; and

WHEREAS, since 1972, the month of April has been observed by the Autism Society of America as National Autism Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools seeks to further support these students and their families, in raising the public awareness of this disorder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 07-24 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proclaiming April 2007 as National Autism Awareness Month, to promote awareness of autism spectrum disorders and encourage the communities support for these children and families.

Presented this eighteenth day of April, A.D. 2007

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY