

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT ADVISORY PANEL FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO ADOPT THE UNIVERSAL USE OF PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE FOR ALL COMMUNICATION WHEN REPRESENTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION**

Authorization is requested to direct the Superintendent to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities to adopt the universal use of People First Language in all forms of communication, both written and spoken. This includes Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) produced documents, publications, reports, press releases, correspondence, videos, and other forms of written and media communication. M-DCPS staff shall use People First Language when representing M-DCPS schools.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools seeks to actively portray students with disabilities in a positive and productive manner, emphasizing their humanity and individuality, rather than their disability. Such positive portrayal in all written and spoken forms of communication serves to enhance the image of students with disabilities. The use of People First Language is the practice of referring first to the person rather than referring first to the disability or limitation. It is appropriate to say "a student with a disability," rather than, "a disabled student." Referring to the person first puts the focus on the individual not the disability.

It is recommended that all newly produced documents, publications, reports, press releases, correspondence, videos and other forms of written and media communication use People First Language. Existing materials will be converted to use People First Language as routinely updated, revised, and reissued.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, directs the Superintendent to accept the recommendations of the Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Students with Disabilities to adopt the universal use of people first language for all communications when representing Miami-Dade County Public School.