

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 08-24 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ENDORING APRIL 2008, AS FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING
MONTH**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING
OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY**

In keeping with the State of Florida's endorsement to designate April 2008, as Florida Service-Learning Month, the Superintendent's Service-Learning Advisory Committee requests the School Board's resolution celebrating service-learning programs. The purpose is to raise awareness of service-learning and promote this pedagogy as a powerful tool in strengthening both education and local communities.

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that offers a unique opportunity for students to get involved by using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. Students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, but they are empowered to become active, contributing citizens and community members. Service-learning can be applied across all subject and grade levels. It goes beyond the traditional elements of community service and volunteering by providing structured classroom time for students to plan, act, and demonstrate through activities directly related to curricula and the Florida Sunshine State Standards.

National research studies show that service-learning programs positively impact youth in three general areas: academic engagement and achievement; civic attitudes and behaviors; and social and personal skills. Furthermore, students involved in service-learning projects attend school more, perform better, are more motivated, and are more knowledgeable about careers (Billing, 2000). By endorsing this resolution, the Board will continue to exemplify the leadership for which the District is noted, and support its goal to develop our students so that they are able to successfully compete in the global economy.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTIN KARP: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 08-24 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing April 2008, as Florida Service-Learning Month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-24
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ENDORING APRIL 2008 AS FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING MONTH
TO BE CELEBRATED IN
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida proclaim April 2008, as Florida Service-Learning Month and encourage all Florida teachers and schools to participate and engage others in service-learning activities now and for as long as they are able; and

WHEREAS, service-learning allows students and other youth to practice knowledge, skills, and behaviors, through meeting community needs; and

WHEREAS, service-learning brings schools and communities together to work jointly on societal needs and problems; and

WHEREAS, service-learning empowers students and other youth to take leadership roles in improving society; and

WHEREAS, service-learning integrates service activities with academic curricula and Florida's Sunshine State Standards, providing students with hands-on, real-life learning opportunities; and

WHEREAS, service-learning activities provide students and other youth with opportunities for career exploration and the chance to develop and practice job skills; and

WHEREAS, students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-24 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing April 2008, as

FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING MONTH

and call upon the people of the Miami-Dade County to engage in service-learning projects, promote the spirit of service-learning, and observe the month with appropriate activities, programs, and ceremonies supporting the theme, "Raising Our Voices for Service-Learning." A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this
16th day of April, A.D. 2008

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary