

Mr. Agustin J. Barrera, Chair

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION No. 08-80 IN  
SUPPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST**

**COMMITTEE:       INNOVATION,       EFFICIENCY       AND       GOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN:       ACTIVELY ENGAGE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS TO BECOME OUR PARTNERS IN RAISING  
AND MAINTAINING HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Miami-Dade County voters approved an independent special district for a dedicated funding source in September 2002, entitled The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust places emphasis on strategic investments in prevention and intervention programming that improves child health, safety and development and promotes increased parental and community involvement on behalf of all children. The Children's Trust coordinates with other local funders and planning entities to sustain and expand high quality prevention and early intervention services for children, youth and families; improves systems of care for children, youth and families; supports knowledge development and quality improvement in the field of child and family service delivery; and advocates for child and family friendly law and policies at the local, state and federal levels.

The Children's Trust has provided funding for summer and after-school programs, 211 Helpline, HealthConnect, immunizations sites, early childhood programs and countless other valuable programs in the community that improve the quality of life for the children in our community. The Children's Trust generates its revenues from a tax levy of up to half a mill on property value. In general, a person owning a home assessed at the median-taxable value contributes approximately \$57 a year towards The Children's Trust.

Miami-Dade County voters will have the option to reauthorize this independent special district during the primary elections on August 26, 2008. Since The Children's Trust has been a cornerstone in our community addressing the needs of our children and youth, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, should support its continuation and should advocate for its reauthorization with internal and external stakeholders.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. AGUSTIN J. BARRERA, CHAIR:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 08-80 in support of The Children's Trust continuation and advocate for its reauthorization with internal and external stakeholders for the reauthorization of The Children's Trust.

**RESOLUTION NO. 08-80  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST**

**WHEREAS,** The Children's Trust makes it possible for more than 40,000 children to have higher-quality after-school care and summer camp, and the most significant increase in crime in America comes in mid-afternoon when young people leave school and need something constructive to do;

**WHEREAS,** The Children's Trust is investing millions of dollars to provide educational, quality childcare resources for parents;

**WHEREAS,** The Children's Trust is spending \$15 million this year alone on behalf of special-needs children, who comprise one in every five children in our country and community;

**WHEREAS,** The Children's Trust is investing millions to prevent violence in neighborhoods;

**WHEREAS,** the need for children and their families is great in our multicultural community and outreach in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole is necessary, but most especially in times of great economic challenge;

**WHEREAS,** the owner of a median-assessed-value home pays \$56.73 a year to sustain The Children's Trust;

**WHEREAS,** investments in children lead to a safer, more secure community for everyone and are a significant contributor to the business and economic future of our community;

**WHEREAS,** throughout the state there are eight counties that have dedicated funding sources for children. Collectively, these counties cover nearly two-thirds of the children in the state, but only one county, Miami-Dade County, is not currently funded in perpetuity;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approves Resolution No. 08-80, in support of the reauthorization of The Children's Trust and agrees to inform its internal and external stakeholders about the August primary election and the critical importance of renewing The Children's Trust and strongly urges the reauthorization of The Children's Trust in the August 26, 2008, primary election.

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

**Presented this fourth day of August, A. D. 2008.**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Secretary