

Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO MANDATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEARN NOT TO BURN FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE THREE AND THE ABC'S OF FIRE SAFETY IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE ONE**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN :       IMPROVE STUDENT HEALTH**

According to the United States Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), each year in the United States an estimated 2,800 children age 14 or younger are injured and 850 killed in residential fires. Of these children, over 40 percent are under the age five, 70 percent are under the age of 10. Because the majority of fire casualties occur in children under the age of 10, many successful national programs are targeted towards that age group.

Whereas Miami-Dade County Public Schools has mandated several safety education programs through physical education, such as Internet Safety, Bicycle Safety, Pedestrian Safety, Water Safety, and Backpack Safety, Fire Safety education has not been implemented in recent years. Accordingly:

- There were 3,430 civilians that lost their lives as the result of fire.
- There were 17,675 civilian injuries that occurred as the result of fire.
- There were 118 firefighters killed while on duty.
- Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined.
- 84 percent of all civilian fire deaths occurred in residences.
- There were an estimated 1.6 million fires in 2007.
- Direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$14.6 billion.
- An estimated 32,500 intentionally set structure fires resulted in 295 civilian deaths.
- Intentionally set structure fires resulted in an estimated \$733 million in property damage.

**H-11**

To address these concerns, and to ensure that students are provided with the information and resources to learn to prevent fires and act in a safe and responsible manner, it is recommended that Miami-Dade County Public Schools implement the "Learn Not to Burn" curriculum in Kindergarten through grade three to prevent unintentional involvement with fire and the "ABC's of Fire Safety" for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten, through Grade One. The goal of this program is to ensure that participants can recognize and avoid potential dangers associated with the fire. This program will be delivered in partnership with the Miami-Dade County Fire Department inclusive of professional development for teachers and a parent component to ensure follow-up implementation.

There is no cost to Miami-Dade County Public Schools for curriculum inclusive of Teacher Manuals, Student Handbooks, Videos, professional development, select on-site training, and follow-up activities.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. WILBERT "TEE" HOLLOWAY:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to mandate the implementation of the "Learn Not To Burn" fire safety education curriculum in grades kindergarten through grade three and the "ABC's of Fire Safety" in pre-kindergarten through grade one