

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF TRAFFIC SAFETY MESSAGE FLYER FOR DISTRIBUTION DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) was endorsed by the School Board at its April 18, 2006 meeting, and for the past four years has partnered with the School District to promote student pedestrian/bicycle safety in our neighborhoods. The CTST is a locally based team of multi-jurisdictional agencies under the auspices of the Florida Department of Transportation.

The CTST recognizes that student pedestrian safety initiatives at the classroom level are an important component of overall traffic safety in our schools and surrounding communities. However, community-based encouragement and involvement is just as important to ensure pedestrian awareness and safe driving skills. Parents and student drivers need to also follow posted school speed zone signs, crosswalk signs and parking laws.

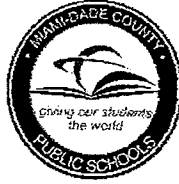
With this in mind, the CTST wishes to start the 2010-11 school year with a safety message that aggressively promotes student traffic safety at the elementary, middle and high school levels. To promote this initiative, the CTST developed a 2010 safety flyer for distribution to all schools (see attached, which will also be translated into Spanish and Creole). Distribution will be handled via the District Weekly Briefing format, and postings on school websites. The messages are short and simple, but the potential of saving lives and avoiding costly police enforcement violations is enormous.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR**

**MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the 2010 Welcome Back to School Safety Flyer for distribution during the first week of school.

**H-9**

August 2010



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
AND  
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAMS

***WELCOME YOU BACK TO SCHOOL! Be Smart. Be Safe.***

Summer is over and it's back to school time! In an effort to keep your new school year fun and safe we ask that parents and children/students, and also, school staff and teachers, follow these simple guidelines when traveling to and from school:

- Walk with your children to school. Walking to school promotes healthy a lifestyle, saves gas and time, and reduces traffic congestion around the school for everyone. If your school has an assigned crossing guard(s), identify the areas as you walk with your child.
- Obey all posted speed signs. Slow down when entering 15 MPH School Speed Zones. Police will enforce this! Look closely at the signs showing hours of activation some signs may have changed.
- Obey all posted roadway signs. For example: "Do Not Enter" signs are for designated limited access streets around some schools. Police will enforce this!
- Use the drop-off and pick-up areas provided at the school when driving your child to school. Do not park your vehicle in these areas as this will slow traffic and inconvenience other parents.
- If you must park your vehicle, please use the designated areas only. Do not block residential driveways or sidewalks. We strongly encourage that you use the designated drop-off and pick-up areas when driving your child to school. If you use non-designated areas, or are blocking access ways, you will be ticketed!
- Buckle Up! Ensure that all occupants of the vehicle, especially children, are always buckled up. Children must be secured in proper child safety seats and/or booster chairs, if applicable. The State of Florida Primary Seat Belt Law requires everyone (adults and children) to buckle up. Fines are \$129 per person, per infraction. If a child (under the age of 18) is seen not wearing a seat belt, the driver will also be ticketed \$179.
- Pedestrian Safety Tips: Always STOP at the curb/edge, and LOOK LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT before crossing a street. Always use designated crosswalks and pedestrian signals, when available, making sure to follow all signal instructions. Do not cross mid block between intersections, unless there is a designated crosswalk. Do not cross in front of a vehicle unless you know for sure the driver clearly sees you.
- Be Safe...Be Seen: When walking or bike riding wear bright colors during the day. During dawn, dusk and night times, use lights and/or reflective clothing so you are more visible to drivers. Backpacks should have reflective materials on them. Carry a flashlight.

*This safety message is brought to you by School Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman, District IV, in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools,*

*Your Local Community Traffic Safety Teams, and its partners. Be Smart. Be Safe.*

