

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR STATE LEGISLATION BANNING TEXTING
WHILE DRIVING IN SCHOOL ZONES**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

In a continued effort to reduce threats to the safety of our students, we must seek to support and advocate for measures which will help us to improve student safety. School zones, which mandate reductions in driving speeds when traveling near school sites, are one of the key measures that help protect student safety. However, with the increasing use of mobile devices (namely, cellular phones) by individuals while driving, the safety of our students is threatened as they walk to school or simply cross the street after being dropped off by their parents. Reduced speed zones around schools are no longer enough to protect our children. Even at reduced speeds, drivers distracted by mobile devices can easily miss a light or street signal and cause a tragedy.

According to a recent study from Texas A&M University's Texas Transportation Institute, texting while driving essentially reduces a driver's reaction time by as much as 50% and makes him/her less able to respond to sudden roadway dangers. The study also found that a texting driver is 11 times more likely to miss a flashing light – a key signal to drivers in school zones. Currently, texting while driving is banned in 34 states across the country, and the District of Columbia, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. } REVIS

In light of the results of recent research, and our responsibility to ensure the safety of our students, this item requests that the School Board formally supports legislation prohibiting texting while driving, specially in designates school zones.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, support legislation banning texting while driving in school zones by including it in the district's legislative program for 2011-2012.

**Revised
H-26**

