

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

SUBJECT: GUN SAFETY

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

Begun in 1988, The National Rifle Association's (NRA) Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program has reached more than 21 million children -- in all 50 states. This program was developed through the combined efforts of qualified professionals such as clinical psychologists, reading specialists, teachers, curriculum specialists, urban housing safety officials, and law enforcement personnel.

Anyone may teach The Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program, and NRA membership is not required. The program may be readily incorporated into existing school curriculum, taught in a one- to five-day format and used to reach students at the primary and secondary levels. Materials available through this program are: student workbooks, 7-minute animated video (available on DVD or VHS), instructor guides, brochures, and student reward stickers. Program materials are also available in Spanish.

The NRA states that it is committed to helping keep America's young children safe. In efforts to do so, they offer this program at a nominal fee. Schools, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, daycare centers, and libraries may be eligible to receive grant funding to defray program costs. Grant funding is available in many states to these groups to cover the cost of all program curriculum materials.

The purpose of the Eddie Eagle Program isn't to teach whether guns are good or bad, but rather to promote the protection and safety of children. The program makes no value judgments about firearms, and no firearms are ever used in the program. Like swimming pools, electrical outlets, matchbooks and household poison, they're treated simply as a fact of everyday life. With firearms found in about half of all American households, it's a stance that makes sense.

Eddie Eagle is never shown touching a firearm, and he does not promote firearm ownership or use. The program prohibits the use of Eddie Eagle mascots anywhere that guns are present. The Eddie Eagle Program has no agenda other than accident prevention -- ensuring that children stay safe should they encounter a gun. The program never mentions the NRA. Nor does it encourage children to buy guns or to become NRA members. The NRA does not receive any appropriations from Congress, nor is it a trade organization. It is not affiliated with any firearm or ammunition manufacturers or with any businesses that deal in guns and ammunition.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. CARLOS L. CURBELO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County endorse the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program to promote gun safety and the prevention of accidents with firearms.