

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: SAFER, SMARTER KIDS CURRICULUM ENDORSEMENT**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION**

Lauren Book, founder of Lauren's Kids, was a victim of childhood sexual abuse for six years at the hands of her nanny. Armed with the knowledge that 95 percent of sexual abuse is preventable through education, Lauren sought to turn her experience into a vehicle to prevent childhood sexual abuse and heal survivors. Lauren's organization educates adults and children about sexual abuse topics through an in-school curriculum, a 24-hour Crisis Hotline and speaking engagements around the country. The organization also provides more than 4.5 million educational and awareness materials statewide through direct mail every year. The ultimate goal is to prevent sexual abuse through awareness and education, and to help survivors heal with guidance and support.

In fulfillment of a 2011 legislative mandate, Lauren's Kids foundation is adapting and delivering a statewide sexual abuse prevention curriculum, "Safer, Smarter Kids," } Revised tailored for kindergartners to each of Florida's nearly 11,000 kindergarten classes. Highlights of this Florida Department of Education approved curriculum, which will be delivered to Florida's 1,962 elementary schools in January 2012 include: curriculum consisting of six, 30 minute micro-lessons, a 20 minute classroom activity, and take home materials to involve and educate parents. The curriculum contains no sensitive material and does not deal with sexual abuse overtly. Rather, it educates children that their bodies are their own, and they need to tell a trusted adult anytime a situation makes them feel confused, scared or uncomfortable. All components of the curriculum, including a DVD, a teacher's guide, student activity sheets, parent newsletters and a poster will be packaged in a box intended to stay in the classroom, helping to ensure the curriculum will be available for implementation with future kindergarten classes in subsequent years.

The curriculum will be mailed to every public elementary school in January with enough copies for every kindergarten classroom and counselor. The curriculum fulfills 22 Sunshine State Standards in five subject areas, as well as addressing multiple ESOL strategies for students whose first language is not English.

**Revised  
Replacement  
H-11**

This curriculum has the full support of the Florida School Boards Association, the Florida Education Association, and Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Additionally, the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence will pre and post-test kindergarten students in pilot counties, such as Miami-Dade, to assess the effectiveness of the program.

There is no cost to the School District associated with this item.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida endorse the full implementation and assessment of the Safer, Smarter Kids curriculum program in all kindergarten classrooms throughout the District.

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-141  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
ENDORING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SAFER,  
SMARTER KIDS CURRICULUM PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 39 million survivors of sexual abuse in America; 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18; 20 percent of the victims of sexual abuse are under age eight, and 90 percent of childhood sexual abuse victims were abused by someone they knew and trusted; and,

**WHEREAS**, Florida currently has no abuse prevention curriculum for kindergarten students; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2011 Florida Legislature directed Lauren's Kids through a direct appropriation to implement a childhood sexual abuse curriculum in Florida schools; and

**WHEREAS**, every kindergarten class in Florida will receive this childhood sexual abuse curriculum in January 2012 at no expense to the district and a message from the Commissioner of the Department of Education to urge teaching of this curriculum; and

**WHEREAS**, this is a significant time for a national learning opportunity about this subject;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 11-141 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing the full implementation and assessment of the Safer, Smarter Kids curriculum program in all Kindergarten classrooms throughout the District.

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

**Presented this fourteenth day of December, A.D. 2011**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary