

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION OF THE 2012
WALKSAFE® STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

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

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

The WalkSafe Program was developed by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level. The WalkSafe educational component involves a three-day curriculum, which is designed to teach students safe walking skills, and is taught to coincide with the annual Walk to School events during the month of October. Since its dissemination in 2003, the WalkSafe Program has proven to be highly successful, with data indicating the number of pedestrians aged 14 years and under hit by cars in Miami-Dade County has decreased by 56 percent.

In 2012, more than 140,000 elementary students participated in the WalkSafe educational program. Students learned about safe street-crossing behaviors, traffic and pedestrian signs and signals, and the benefits of walking daily. During the program, the WalkSafe team hosted a statewide poster contest to encourage students to promote the most important pedestrian safety lessons learned from the three-day educational program.

This year, the contest was very competitive, with 91 elementary schools from seven different counties submitting entries. Adjudication of the posters was conducted by representatives from WalkSafe's partnering agencies, and proudly, Miami-Dade County students placed first in two of the three statewide grade level categories. The winners from Miami-Dade County are:

Grades K-1: Nicole Gonglewski, first-grade student from Howard Drive Elementary School (also a state winner in her grade category)

Grades 2-3: Natalia Miguel, second-grade student from Doral Academy Elementary School (also a state winner in her grade category)

Grades 4-5: Brandon Ysibido, fourth-grade student from Ernest R Graham K-8 Center

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize and congratulate the winners of the 2012 WalkSafe® Statewide Poster Contest.