

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: FLORIDA TAX FREE WEEKEND AWARENESS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

For a number of years, the Florida Legislature has authorized a tax free weekend for basic school supplies in advance of the opening of the new school year. Typically, the exempt items have included clothing up to \$75.00, and basic supplies such as pencils, pens, notebooks, erasers and other school items up to \$15.00. Undoubtedly, this opportunity to save money has benefited many families as they purchase the items their children will need in order to start the school year prepared for success.

As we approach the opening of the 2013-2014 school year, Floridians will once again be able to get more for their money during a three-day tax holiday scheduled to take place August 2 through August 4, 2013. However, what many families may not be aware of is that this year the Legislature has extended sales tax exemptions to a number of the technological learning tools that students will find useful in today's digital learning environments. Some of the exempted items include personal computers, e-readers, tablets, software and accessories costing up to \$750.

The Superintendent has announced that all schools will have wireless Internet access in the coming year and we are aware that instructional materials and state assessments are moving rapidly to digital formats. As our community continues to recover from several difficult economic years, every opportunity for families to be able to save funds while providing their children with needed educational supplies should be widely announced so that as many people as possible may benefit. As such, it is in the best interest of the students and parents we serve to use the District's communication resources to make certain that Miami-Dade citizens are aware of the upcoming tax holiday.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to utilize the District's communication resources to raise community awareness of Florida's upcoming sales tax holiday scheduled for August 2-4, 2013.