

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

Co-Sponsor: Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice-Chair

} Added

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-088 OF  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Every weekend, children across the country go hungry because they don't have enough food to eat. Thirty-one million students in the United States qualify for the federal *Free and Reduced-Price Meal* program. While that program provides food during the week, these students have little or no means of obtaining food on weekends.

In 2005, *Blessings in a Backpack* started to provide schoolchildren, from two schools who were enrolled in the federal meal program, with a backpack of food to take home on Fridays for 38 weekends during the school year. Today, *Blessings in a Backpack* fills this significant hunger gap by providing food during the school year to more than 66,000 elementary schoolchildren in 642 schools, across 45 states.

Backpack food includes easy-to-prepare and ready-to-eat foods such as oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, granola bars, and juice boxes.

There are more than 20 million children in this country who are at risk of hunger. The consequences of hunger are much more than a growling stomach. Poor nutrition can result in a weaker immune system, increased hospitalization, lower IQ, shorter attention spans, and lower academic achievement. Students who participate in the program show marked improvement in school attendance, test scores, behavior, and health.

*Blessings in a Backpack* is to be commended for its extraordinary dedication, generosity, and compassion, which will reverberate for years to come.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-088 of The School Board Of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing *Blessings in a Backpack*.

**Revised  
Replacement  
H-5**

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-088  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING *BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK***

**WHEREAS**, every weekend, children across the country go hungry because they don't have enough food to eat; and

**WHEREAS**, thirty-one million students in the United States qualify for the federal *Free and Reduced-Price Meal* program. While that program provides food during the week, these students have little or no means of obtaining food on weekends; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, *Blessings in a Backpack* started to provide schoolchildren, from two schools who were enrolled in the federal meal program, with a backpack of food to take home on Fridays for 38 weekends during the school year; and

**WHEREAS**, today, *Blessings in a Backpack* fills this significant hunger gap by providing food during the school year to more than 66,000 elementary schoolchildren in 642 schools, across 45 states. Backpack food includes easy-to-prepare and ready-to-eat foods such as oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, granola bars, and juice boxes; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 20 million children in this country who are at risk of hunger. The consequences of hunger are much more than a growling stomach. Poor nutrition can result in a weaker immune system, increased hospitalization, lower IQ, shorter attention spans, and lower academic achievement. Students who participate in the program show marked improvement in school attendance, test scores, behavior, and health; and

**WHEREAS**, *Blessings in a Backpack* is to be commended for its extraordinary dedication, generosity, and compassion, which will reverberate for years to come;

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-088 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing *Blessings in a Backpack*.

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

**Presented this seventh day of October, A.D. 2014**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary