

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

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**SUBJECT: EDIBLE LANDSCAPING**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Every child should have access to good food and the knowledge of how it grows. Connecting children with real food will empower and inspire them to eat well and appreciate nature's bounty. School gardens and greenhouses provide children with a first-hand experience of what real food is, where it comes from and how it grows.

However, we often overlook the abundance of plants that grow wild in the landscape that offer health and nutrition benefits. Ethnobotany, the study of regional plants and their practical uses, offers vital knowledge about the value of plants that we take for granted, such as *Moringa olifera* (drumstick tree), *Bidens alba* (spanish needle), and many others that dot the local landscape.

Through partnerships with organizations such as The Education Fund and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, students are exposed to a multi-disciplinary approach to learning about horticulture, botany, and landscaping. The popular Food Forests, funded and operated by The Education Fund in 20 elementary schools, grow a variety of vegetables and greens used in the school cafeterias, with surplus amounts given to the children to take home. Fairchild's StemLab program provides numerous middle school students opportunities to engage in research projects and conservation efforts.

This platform presents us with a priceless opportunity to educate children on the value of plants that grow in the wild and can be used to enhance our health and well-being at zero cost.

This Agenda Item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**Revised  
H-4**

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of incorporating edible landscaping as part of our existing partnerships with The Education Fund, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens and other external organizations, and report no later than April 2019.

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