

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-017 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS WATER SAFETY MONTH

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Florida leads the nation with more child drownings than any other state. Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States in children ages one through four. With water-related activities taking place throughout the year, our youngest children are the most vulnerable. Of growing concern is the rising popularity of the use of private homes as vacation destinations. Florida has the second highest number of residential swimming pools in the country. Residential swimming pools are not required to meet the same safety standards and regulations as commercial and hotel pools.

We recognize the benefits that swimming and aquatic-related activities have on good physical and mental health and enhance the quality of life for everyone. We understand the essential role that education regarding the topic of water safety plays in preventing drowning and recreational water-related injuries.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools successfully implemented the “Learn to Swim” program and the iSwim initiative, bringing together stakeholder groups to advance awareness of water safety throughout the community. Legislative efforts served to strengthen our position of providing on-site swimming lessons for children in kindergarten. We actively promote water safety events and offer the Red Cross water safety curriculum for younger students. Secondary school students can participate in outdoor water sports such as kayaking, sailing, and open water safety training that include safe boating practices. These courses are provided in our three community partner locations: Coconut Grove Sailing Club, Miami Yacht Club, and Oleta State Park.

As a community, we commend the ongoing efforts and commitments by local municipalities, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholder groups to educate the public on the importance of water safety.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTA PÉREZ: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-017 recognizing the month of April as Water Safety Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**Replacement
B-4**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-017
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING APRIL AS WATER SAFETY MONTH IN
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, Florida leads the nation with more child drownings than any other state. Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States in children ages one through four. With water-related activities taking place throughout the year, our youngest children are the most vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the vital role that swimming and aquatic-related activities relate to good physical and mental health and enhance the quality of life for all people. We understand the essential role that education regarding the topic of water safety plays in preventing drowning and recreational water-related injuries; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools successfully implemented the “Learn to Swim” program and the iSwim initiative, bringing together stakeholder groups to advance awareness of water safety throughout the community. Legislative efforts served to strengthen our position of providing on-site swimming lessons for children in kindergarten. We actively promote water safety events and offer the Red Cross water safety curriculum for younger students. Secondary school students can participate in outdoor water sports such as kayaking, sailing, and open water safety training that include safe boating practices. These courses are provided in our three community partner locations: Coconut Grove Sailing Club, Miami Yacht Club, and Oleta State Park; and

WHEREAS, as a community, we commend the ongoing efforts and commitments by local municipalities, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholder groups to educate the public on the importance of water safety.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-017 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing April as Water Safety Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

Presented this 13th day of March, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary