

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK, OCTOBER 20-26, 2019, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF YEAR-ROUND SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES AT ALL DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that distracted driving has become a dangerous epidemic on the nation's roadways, contributing to thousands of traffic fatalities, and nearly half a million injuries each year. Distracted driving activities include, but are not limited to, using a cell phone and electronic text messaging. Reaching for a phone, dialing and texting increases your crash risk by three times. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that in 2017 there were 3,166 fatalities from motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. Our youngest and most inexperienced drivers are most at risk, with 10% of all distracted driving crashes involving drivers under the age of 20.

The School District participates in National Teen Driver Safety Week, as part of its annual efforts to help bring awareness and reduce distracted driving. This year, the national event will run from October 20-26, 2019. This safety initiative encourages parents, young drivers, lawmakers and educators to work together to change risky driving behaviors at the high school age level and help save lives across the country.

For the past several years, the School District has partnered with the Florida Department of Transportation in its "Put It Down" Campaign, which helps educate teens and the general public on the dangers of all forms of distracted driving. The School District is one of 135 community entities that have rallied to speak in one voice to help strengthen awareness efforts. The campaign will also emphasize the No Texting While Driving law. In the month leading up to the Teen Driver Safety events, weekly E-mail blasts and web banners with important related safety messages will be transmitted to all appropriate schools and employees via the District's portal/website.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR**

**PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 20-26, 2019, and encouragement of year-round safe driving practices at all District high schools.