

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: HOLIDAY OPT-IN LEARNING

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDER

National/Federal holidays, which could be valuable learning experiences for students, are not always understood by students for their historical significance. This agenda item seeks the consideration of a limited pilot program where a select number of schools are open on certain national holidays for students to engage with teachers in meaningful lessons and/or educational activities directly related to the national holiday. The holidays for this opt-in program could include All Presidents Day, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Veterans' Day, and Memorial Day.

Other possibilities, in addition to or in lieu of opening schools and hosting programs at those sites, may include greater exposure to and participation in local parades, events, field trips, ceremonies, or teaching and learning exercises via virtual programs.

On Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, students could focus time reading or watching live footage of Dr. King's speeches, participating in community events, and/or choosing activities that would contribute to this national day of service. On Veterans' Day, students could be provided opportunities to meet with veterans to hear their stories, and to attend community programs. On Memorial Day, programs could be introduced that highlight heroes who lost their lives in defense of this country, and that provide field trip experiences to and participation in Memorial Day services.

A purpose of this agenda item is to increase hands-on, in-depth, and "out-of-the classroom" experiences directly related to the aforementioned holidays that typically do not occur due to time constraints. The goal is to give our students a stronger connection to what the national holidays represent, and for them to benefit by engaging in more activity-oriented assignments and lessons delivered beyond the four walls of a traditional classroom.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. Explore the possibility of a holiday opt-in program on a limited basis which would provide educational experiences for students during national holidays; and
2. Provide a response to the School Board no later than the January 2020 School Board meeting.