

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK, OCTOBER 18-24, 2020, AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE INCLUSION OF SAFE DRIVING SKILLS IN THE CURRICULUM AT ALL DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND 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. Statistics show that 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 18-24, 2020. 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 also emphasizes the No Texting While Driving laws. In the month leading up to the Teen Driver Safety Week, 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.

This board item seeks to endorse the National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 18-24, 2020, and encourage the inclusion of safe driving skills in the curriculum at all District senior high schools.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 18-24, 2020, and encourage the inclusion of safe driving skills in the curriculum at all District senior high schools.