

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT:               REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-111 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 1 – 15, 2009 AS DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEKS**

**COMMITTEE:           INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE STUDENT EXPOSURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND ECONOMY**

On June 13, 2008, Senate Bill 856 was signed into law by Governor Charlie Crist, designating the first two weeks of October of each year as Disability History and Awareness Weeks. The bill encourages school districts to provide instruction for students in all Florida K-12 public schools to expand student knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities, disability history, and the disability rights movement. There are approximately 400,000 students with disabilities in Florida's K-12 education system.

During Disability History and Awareness Weeks, students have the opportunity to learn about disability history, including the civil rights of individuals with disabilities, and about the many contributions of individuals with disabilities. The goals of disability history and awareness instruction include, better treatment for individuals with disabilities, with an emphasis on preventing bullying and harassment of students with disabilities; encouragement to individuals with disabilities to develop increased self-esteem which leads to self-pride, educational and career opportunities, and community involvement and contributions; and reaffirmation of the local, state, and federal commitment to full society inclusion and equal opportunities for all individuals with disabilities.

This year, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will observe Disability History and Awareness Weeks on October 1 - 15, 2009 under the theme "A Focus on Peer Education."

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**     That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-111 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing October 1-15, 2009 as Disability History and Awareness Weeks.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-111  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING  
OCTOBER 1-15, 2009 AS DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEKS**

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 400,000 students with disabilities in Florida's K-12 education system; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 13, 2008, Senate Bill 856 was signed into law by Governor Charlie Crist, designating the first two weeks of October of each year as Disability History and Awareness Weeks; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill encourages school districts to provide instruction for students in all Florida K-12 public schools to expand student knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities and disability rights history; and

**WHEREAS**, during Disability History and Awareness Weeks, students have the opportunity to learn about disability history, including the civil rights of individuals with disabilities, and about the many contributions of individuals with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will observe Disability History and Awareness Weeks on October 1 - 15, 2009 under the theme "A Focus on Peer Education";

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-111 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing October 1-15, 2009 as Disability History and Awareness Weeks.

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

**Presented this fourteenth day of October, A.D. 2009**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary