

Dr. Martin S. Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-033 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION PROGRAM FOR THEIR DISTINGUISHED SERVICES FOR THE STUDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**COMMITTEE:** INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:** EDUCATION

The School Health Services Act s 381.0056, F.S. requires that health appraisals be conducted for the identification and management of actual or potential health problems, a system to track referrals of failed screenings, and linkages to community partners to assure referral resources for failed screenings. Miami-Dade County Public Schools employs 14 Health Screeners who along with staff from the Health Connect in Our Schools teams, conduct over 100,000 vision screenings. Each year, approximately 13,000 students fail these state-mandated screenings. All too frequently, parents have neither the resources or time to ensure that their children receive the follow-up eye examinations and prescriptions glasses needed so that they are healthy and able to learn.

The Dade County Optometric Association established the Dr. Bruce Heiken Memorial Fund in 1992. In June of 2007, The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind merged with the Heiken Children's Vision Program. The new acquisition led to an enhanced infrastructure and ultimately enhanced services to our students. Nearly 90 local optometrists belong to the Heiken network of providers. The Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children's Vision Program operates three mobile units that visit about 250 M-DCPS sites annually. Since its inception, the Heiken Program has provided eye care services to approximately 50,000 low-income M-DCPS schoolchildren. Each month, about 600 children's lives are changed through this program as they receive follow-up eye examinations and necessary prescription glasses, enabling them to perform at their peak capacity.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 10-033 recognizing the Miami Lighthouse For The Blind Heiken Children's Vision Program for their distinguished services for the students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**H-15**

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-033  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING  
THE MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND HEIKEN CHILDREN'S VISION  
PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Heiken Children's Vision Program was created in 1992 by the Dade County Optometric Association in response to the realization that every year thousands of children in Miami-Dade County failed school vision screenings and never received comprehensive eye examinations or glasses; and

**WHEREAS**, The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind is ranked among the nation's top 18% most efficient non-profit organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 the Heiken Children's Vision Program merged with The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind to enhance the program infrastructure and build capacity for services; and

**WHEREAS**, the M-DCPS Division of Student Services, Comprehensive Health Services has joined forces with the Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children's Vision Program to develop a system to track referrals of failed screenings and assure follow-up referral resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Instant Vision Program" (IVP) utilizes three, fully equipped mobile "optometric office" eye care units to travel to schools and provide comprehensive eye health and vision examinations; and

**WHEREAS**, through this initiative, approximately 40,000 students have received comprehensive eye examinations and necessary prescription glasses, free-of-charge; and

**WHEREAS**, the objective is to provide comprehensive eye health services including vision examinations, eyeglasses, and vision training for students, this meeting the goal for vision established in Health People 2010.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-033 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Miami Lighthouse Heiken Children's Vision Program for distinguished services.

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

**Presented this fourteenth day of April, A.D. 2010**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary