

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2011 WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY FLYER FOR DISTRIBUTION DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) has, for the past five years, partnered with the School District to promote student pedestrian/bicycle safety in our neighborhoods. The CTST is a locally based team of multi-jurisdictional agencies under the auspices of the Florida Department of Transportation.

The CTST recognizes that student pedestrian safety initiatives at the classroom level are an important component of overall traffic safety in our schools and surrounding communities. However, community-based encouragement and involvement is just as important to ensure pedestrian awareness and safe driving skills. Parents and student drivers need to also follow posted school speed zone signs, crosswalk signs and parking laws.

With this in mind, and for the past several years, the CTST has developed a school flyer containing safety messages that aggressively promote student traffic safety at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The 2011 safety flyer will be distributed to all District schools (see attached, which will also be translated into Spanish and Creole), via the District Weekly Briefing format, and postings on school websites. The messages are short and simple, but the potential of saving lives and avoiding costly police enforcement violations is enormous.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the 2011 Welcome Back to School Safety Flyer for distribution during the first week of school.

August 2011



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND
YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY TEAMS

WELCOME YOU BACK TO SCHOOL! Be Smart. Be Safe.

Summer is over and it's back to school time! In an effort to keep your new school year fun and safe we ask that parents and children/students, and also, school staff and teachers, follow these simple guidelines when traveling to and from school:

- Walk with your children to school. Walking to school promotes health, saves gas and time, and reduces traffic congestion around the school for everyone.
- Obey all posted speed signs. Slow down when entering 15 MPH School Speed Zones. Pay special attention at the signs showing hours of activation. Police will enforce this!
- Obey all posted roadway signs. For example: "Do Not Enter" signs are for designated limited access streets around some schools. Police will enforce this!
- When stopping, standing, or parking your vehicle, please use the designated areas only. Do not block driveways or sidewalks. If you use non-designated areas, or are blocking access ways, you will be ticketed!
- Buckle Up! Ensure that all occupants of the vehicle, especially children, are always buckled up. Children must be secured in proper child safety seats and/or booster chairs, if applicable. The State of Florida Primary Seat Belt Law requires everyone (adults and children) to buckle up. Fines are \$129 per person, per infraction. If a child (under the age of 18) is seen not wearing a seat belt or child restraint, the driver will also be ticketed \$186.
- Pedestrian Safety Tips: Always STOP at the curb/edge, and LOOK LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT before crossing a street. Always use designated crosswalks and pedestrian signals with crossing guard, when available, making sure to follow all signal instructions. Do not cross mid block between intersections, unless there is a designated crosswalk. Do not cross in front of a vehicle unless you know for sure the driver clearly sees you.
- Be Safe...Be Seen: When walking or bike riding wear bright colors during the day. During dawn, dusk and night times, use lights and/or reflective clothing so you are more visible to drivers. Backpacks should have reflective materials on them. Carry a flashlight.

This safety message is brought to you by School Board Chairman Perla Tabares Hantman, District IV, in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools,

Your Local Community Traffic Safety Teams, and its partners. Be Smart. Be Safe.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
Injury Prevention
Coalition
Jackson Health System



SafeRoutes
Florida Safe Routes to School
www.srtsfl.org



MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY



Safe Kids
Miami Dade County

