

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION OF THE 2011 WALKSAFE™ PROGRAM POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

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

The WalkSafe™ Program was developed by the University of Miami-Miller School of Medicine to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level. The Program's educational component involves a three-day curriculum, which is designed to teach students safe walking skills and is taught to coincide with the Annual Walk to School events during the month of October. Since its dissemination in 2003, the WalkSafe™ Program has proven to be highly successful, with crash data indicating the number of child pedestrians aged 14 and under hit by cars in Miami-Dade County has decreased by 53 percent.

In 2011, more than 120,000 elementary students participated in the WalkSafe™ educational program. Students learned about safe street-crossing behaviors, traffic and pedestrian signs and signals, and the benefits of walking daily. During the program, the WalkSafe™ team hosted a statewide poster contest to encourage students to promote the most important pedestrian safety lessons learned from the three-day educational program.

This year, the contest was very competitive, with 117 elementary schools from five different counties submitting entries. Adjudication of the posters was conducted by representatives from WalkSafe's partnering agencies, and proudly, Miami-Dade County students placed first in two of the three statewide categories. The winners from Miami-Dade County are:

Grades K-1: Ericka Sermiot, first-grade student from Gertrude K. Edelman/Sabal Palm Elementary School (also a state winner in her grade category)

Grades 2-3: Fabio Fernandez, third-grade student from Treasure Island Elementary School (also a state winner in his grade category)

Grades 4-5: Carolina Caba, fifth-grade student from Virginia A. Boone/Highland Oaks Elementary School

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize and congratulate the winners of the 2011 WalkSafe™ Program Poster Contest.