

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-044 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Special Olympics was created in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver to provide year-round athletic training and competition in Olympic-style sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics embraces a healthy lifestyle, developing courage, experiencing joy and sharing gifts, skills and friendship with other athletes and their families. In addition, this international nonprofit organization encourages participants to become productive, empowered members of society. Special Olympics serves over 3.8 million people through more than 200 programs in 180 countries.

Established more than 20 years ago, Special Olympics Miami-Dade County has more than 3,000 participants in 13 different sports ranging from aquatics to golf. Local competition and training take place throughout the year. Those qualifying athletes and teams move on to state competition. Opportunities also exist for athletes compete in national and international events. In preparation, athletes take part in an eight-week training program lead by experienced coaches and caring volunteers.

Athletes aged eight years and older are welcome to participate regardless of their ability level or experience. Also offered are Unified Sports, which join athletes with and without developmental disabilities in training and competition. Athletes and their families participate in Special Olympics Miami-Dade County programs at no charge. The organization is supported through individual and corporate contributions, grants as well as special events.

Special Olympics Miami-Dade County is to be commended for enriching the lives of those with intellectual disabilities through athletic competition. The organization truly embodies its oath, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-044 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Special Olympics Miami-Dade County.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-044
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics was created in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver to provide year-round athletics training and competition on Olympic-style sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The international nonprofit organization serves 2.25 million people through more than 200 programs in 160 countries; and

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics embraces a healthy lifestyle, developing courage, experiencing joy and sharing gifts, skills and friendship with other athletes and their families; and

WHEREAS, established more than 20 years ago, Special Olympics Miami-Dade County has more than 3,000 participants in 13 different sports ranging from aquatics to golf. Athletes aged eight years and older are welcome to participate regardless of their ability level or experience; and

WHEREAS, families participate in Special Olympics Miami-Dade County programs at no charge. The organization is supported through individual and corporate contributions, grants as well as special events; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics Miami-Dade County is to be commended for enriching the lives of those with intellectual disabilities through athletic competition. The organization truly embodies its oath, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-044 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Special Olympics Miami-Dade County.

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

Presented this seventh day of March A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary