

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-065 OF THE  
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS  
MONTH**

**COMMITTEE:           INSTRUCTIONAL       EXCELLENCE       AND       COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

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

In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes April as a special time for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.

The event draws attention to the increasing need for concern and awareness about the condition being called a national epidemic. About one in 110 children in the United States has an 'autism spectrum disorder' (ASD) that can cause social, behavioral and communication challenge.

The Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum. The society advocates for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and provides the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

Founded in 1965 by Dr. Bernard Rimland, Dr. Ruth Sullivan and many other parents of children with autism, the Autism Society is the leading source of trusted and reliable information about autism. Through its strong chapter network, the Autism Society has spearheaded numerous pieces of state and local legislation, including the 2006 Combating Autism Act, the first federal autism-specific law.

Many Autism Society local chapters hold special events in their communities throughout the month of April. As an advocate for children, Miami-Dade County Public Schools honors the spirit of National Autism Awareness Month.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**           That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida,  
approve Resolution No. 12-065 of The School Board of  
Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing April as National  
Autism Awareness Month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-065**

**OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, in order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States recognizes April as a special time for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community; and

**WHEREAS**, the event draws attention to the increasing need for concern and awareness about the condition being called a national epidemic. About one in 110 children in the United States has an 'autism spectrum disorder' (ASD) that can cause social, behavioral and communication challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the Autism Society, the nation's leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum. The society advocates for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and provides the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1965 by Dr. Bernard Rimland, Dr. Ruth Sullivan and many other parents of children with autism, the Autism Society is the leading source of trusted and reliable information about autism; and

**WHEREAS**, through its strong chapter network, the Autism Society has spearheaded numerous pieces of state and local legislation, including the 2006 Combating Autism Act, the first federal autism-specific law; and

**WHEREAS**, many Autism Society local chapters hold special events in their communities throughout the month of April. As an advocate for children, Miami-Dade County Public Schools honors the spirit of National Autism Awareness Month;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-065 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing April as National Autism Awareness Month.

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

**Presented this eighteenth day of April, A.D. 2012**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary