

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2012 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 six 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 are an important component of overall traffic safety in our schools and surrounding communities, and is a strong advocate of community-based involvement to ensure pedestrian awareness and safe driving skills. To that end, the CTST encourages parents and student drivers to 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 2012 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 high.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the 2012 Welcome Back to School Safety Flyer for distribution during the first week of school.



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, children/students, 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, can save time, and reduces traffic congestion around the school.
- **Obey all posted speed signs.** While driving, slow down when entering 15 MPH School Speed Zones. Pay special attention to 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, sidewalks or crosswalks. If you use non-designated areas, or are blocking access ways, you will be ticketed!
- **Buckle Up!** Ensure that all occupants of your 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 the driver and adults over 18 to buckle up. Fines are \$129 per person, per infraction. In addition, if a child (under the age of 18) is seen not wearing a seat belt, the driver will also be ticketed \$179.
- **Pedestrian Safety Tips:** STOP at the curb/edge of pavement, and LOOK LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT *before* crossing a street. Always use designated crosswalks and pedestrian signals with a crossing guard, when available. Do not cross in front of a vehicle unless you know for sure the driver clearly sees you, and is stopping.
- **Bike Safety Tips:** Get ready to ride by putting on a properly-fitted helmet and doing a pre-ride ABC Quick check (air, brakes, chain and quick release) of the bike to make sure it is safe to ride. Follow the rules of the road at all times!
- **School Bus Safety Tips for children:** When walking to a bus stop, use sidewalks if available. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left facing traffic. Never speak to strangers at the bus stop or get into a stranger's car. Wait for the bus to arrive, watch for red flashing lights and the Stop arm to extend. When riding in a bus always, wear your seatbelt and obey driver.
- **School Bus Safety Tips for Drivers:** Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm signal indicate the bus is stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Cars must stop a safe distance away and not proceed until the red lights stop flashing.
- **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 Chair 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.

