

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-107 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING TEEN DRIVERS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL "DRIVE 4 PLEDGES DAY" ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 AND TO MAKE A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO NEVER TEXT WHILE DRIVING**

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

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

In an effort to enhance my yearlong safety campaign to bring awareness to the dangers of risky driving behaviors, including text messaging and alcohol-impaired driving, I am encouraging all drivers, particularly our student drivers, in the community to set aside a moment on September 19, 2013 to take a pledge to not text while driving ("Drive 4 Pledges Day"). This special national pledge date is sponsored by the wireless provider, AT&T and its many partners, to bring attention to the dangers of texting while driving. This also brings an opportunity to highlight the new No Texting While Driving law in the State of Florida that becomes effective October 1, 2013.

Although as a nation we have made great strides in reducing distracted driving habits; text messaging remains a national epidemic resulting in thousands of fatalities on our roadways. In fact, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that texting while driving increases a risk of collision by 23%. A driver that sends a text message while driving not only jeopardizes their safety, but also the safety of passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, drivers are encouraged to visit [www.itcanwait.com](http://www.itcanwait.com) (also sponsored by AT&T) to take the No Texting While Driving Pledge, and to make a lifelong commitment to never do so again. By sharing this message with families, friends and especially our students, together, we can turn the tide and save lives by simply putting the phone down while driving.

No text is so important -- it can wait!

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR**

**PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-107 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, encouraging teen drivers and the community at large to participate in the National "Drive 4 Pledges Day" on September 19, 2013 and to make a lifelong commitment to never text while driving.

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-107  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
ENCOURAGING TEEN DRIVERS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE NATIONAL "DRIVE 4 PLEDGES DAY" ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 AND TO  
MAKE A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO NEVER TEXT WHILE DRIVING**

**WHEREAS**, all drivers, particularly our student drivers, in the community are encouraged to set aside a moment on September 19, 2013 to take a pledge to not text while driving ("Drive 4 Pledges Day"); and

**WHEREAS**, this special national pledge date is sponsored by the wireless provider, AT&T; to bring attention to the dangers of texting while driving; and

**WHEREAS**, text messaging remains a national epidemic resulting in thousands of fatalities on our roadways; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that texting while driving increases a risk of collision by 23 percent. A driver that sends a text message while driving not only jeopardizes their safety, but also the safety of passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 19<sup>th</sup>, drivers are encouraged to visit [www.itcanwait.com](http://www.itcanwait.com) to take the No Texting While Driving Pledge, and to make a lifelong commitment to never do so again; and

**WHEREAS**, by sharing this message with families, friends and especially our students, together, we can turn the tide and save lives by simply putting the phone down while driving.

No text is so important -- it can wait!

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-107 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, encouraging teen drivers and the community at large to participate in the National "Drive 4 Pledges Day" on September 19, 2013 and to make a lifelong commitment to never text while driving.

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

**Presented this third day of September, A.D. 2013**

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary