

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MARCH 2015 AS  
ARTS IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a long-standing tradition of supporting arts in the schools. Arts programs are known to strongly influence a student's academic success in language arts, science and math. Research indicates that students who study the arts are more likely to be elected for class office, participate in math and science fairs and win awards for writing. The arts contribute to the development of productive citizens and future leaders.

Every March, the many benefits and contributions of arts education and the arts are recognized in schools and municipalities across the country. Children's Art Month was established in 1961 through a collaboration of the National Arts Education Association (NAEA) and the Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI). In 1969, the observance was renamed Youth Art Month and it was expanded to encompass middle and high school students. Youth Art Month is sponsored by the Council for Art Education, Inc., which encompasses NAEA, the General Federation of Women's Clubs and other groups. It encourages the support of school art programs and emphasizes the value of art education.

Art education has been shown to develop a child's self-esteem and sharpen their critical-thinking skills. It increases multicultural awareness as well as technical, communication and expressive skills. Art and art education can improve school attendance and promote self-directed learning, self-confidence and self-esteem.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR**

**PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse March 2015 as Arts in Our Schools Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.