

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL "WALK TO SCHOOL DAY", AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "WALKSAFE" PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM, DURING THE WEEK OF THE EVENT

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

International "Walk to School Day," planned for October 7, 2015, is designed to promote awareness about pedestrian safety among students, parents, and schools. The program reinforces safe routes to schools and safe walking skills, as well as walking as exercise to combat childhood obesity. The program is environmentally friendly because it reduces pollution generated by school-related traffic, and reinforces the importance of obeying school zone speed limits.

The Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee have endorsed the "Walk to School Day" event. This safety awareness campaign is crucial in our communities, as alarming data recently published by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles reveals 117 children under the age of 15 were injured and three killed in traffic crashes in Miami-Dade County during 2014.

It is also recommended that the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum be implemented to coincide with the "Walk to School Day" event. The Office of Physical Education and Health Literacy will spearhead its implementation at all District elementary schools. "WalkSafe" was created by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to reduce pediatric pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Both programs are operated at no cost to the District.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the 2015 International "Walk to School Day", and implement the "WalkSafe" pedestrian safety program curriculum during the week of the event.