

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-079 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Learning disabilities are neurologically-based processing problems. These processing problems can interfere with learning basic skills such as reading, writing and/or math. They can also interfere with higher level skills such as organization, time planning, abstract reasoning, long or short term memory and attention. It is important to realize that learning disabilities can affect an individual's life beyond academics and can impact relationships in the workplace, and with family and friends. A learning disability cannot be cured or fixed; it is a lifelong challenge. However, with appropriate support and intervention, people with learning disabilities can achieve success in school, at work, in relationships, and in the community.

October was originally designated in the United States as Learning Disabilities Month in 1985 through a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan. Learning Disabilities Awareness Month is an annual campaign that takes place each October where people pay special attention to children and adults with learning disabilities.

Children with disabilities face challenges interpreting what they see and hear, and linking information from different parts of the brain. It is important during Learning Disabilities (LD) Month to focus less on the disabilities aspect and focus more on the incredible abilities many of these individuals possess as well as emphasize the phenomenal achievements and important strides many of these individuals have made. Learning Disabilities (LD) affects millions of children and adults in school and in everyday life.

Approximately 58 million people in the United States have a disability. People with disabilities are people first, who happen to have a disability. Equal treatment is essential to the well-being and acceptance of our coworkers with a disability. Education is the key to helping people understand each other.

The Office of Exceptional Student Education serves children and families throughout the district by developing, coordinating and overseeing programs that support students with disabilities in order to ensure that curriculum, instructional and behavioral practices are tailored to meet their educational needs. The Office is also committed to enhancing academic success for all students by providing access to age appropriate school and community resources that will benefit the individual needs of each student. Specific programs and services include early identification and intervention, psycho-educational evaluation and placement, transition support and truancy prevention.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-079 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing October as Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-079
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Learning disabilities are neurologically-based processing problems. These processing problems can interfere with learning basic skills such as reading, writing and/or math. They can also interfere with higher level skills such as organization, time planning, abstract reasoning, long or short term memory and attention; and,

WHEREAS, October was originally designated in the United States as Learning Disabilities Month in 1985 through a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan. Learning Disabilities Awareness Month is an annual campaign that takes place each October; and,

WHEREAS, every person, regardless of ability, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn and the potential to make important contributions to their local communities; and,

WHEREAS, Disability Awareness Month is a time to recognize Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (MDCPS) accomplishments concerning students and employees with disabilities and to also identify improvements that will make sure all M-DCPS students and employees with developmental disabilities are included; and,

WHEREAS, celebrating the abilities and contributions of people with developmental disabilities can only serve to enrich M-DCPS and enhance our diversity;

WHEREAS, Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals with disabilities to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society and experience fully in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of American society; and

WHEREAS, Disability Awareness Month highlights the progress the office of Exceptional Student Education has made in improving services to children and families throughout the district by developing, coordinating and overseeing programs that support students with disabilities in order to ensure that curriculum, instructional and behavioral practices are tailored to meet their educational needs; and

WHEREAS, family members, friends and members of the community can play a vital role in enhancing the lives of people with disabilities, especially when the family and community are provided with necessary support services; and public and private employers are aware of the capabilities of people with disabilities to be engaged in competitive work in inclusive settings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-079 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing October as Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.

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

Presented this ninth day of September, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary