

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Vice Chair } Revised

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT RECOGNIZING  
NOVEMBER AS HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS  
AWARENESS MONTH THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE  
SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATION, AND  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED  
STAKEHOLDERS**

The week of November 14 - 21, 2015 is designated as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and is held each year the week before Thanksgiving. The face of homelessness is evolving and many of those identified as being homeless are now children. It should be our collective goal to provide meaningful assistance and awareness to those children and families who should not be forgotten.

According to the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, as of January 2015, there are 4,152 individuals identified as homeless within the county, 945 which are children under the age of 18. These children are either in an emergency shelter (temporary care) or transitional shelter (primary care).

Miami-Dade County Public Schools prides itself and rightfully so, regarding the work and partnerships to ensure children are not hungry. However, by promoting year-long awareness of hunger and homelessness, we hope to foster a community culture built on compassion and empathy, letting children know despite circumstances or obstacles, there is an informed community that cares.

We can make a difference and bring awareness to this issue and advocate for our homeless children and families in need and remind them they are not forgotten.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, authorize the Superintendent to endorse November as Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month.