

Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF APRIL 2016 AS WATER SAFETY MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has taken a leadership role in our community with the creation and implementation of programs such as “Learn to Swim” and the latest initiative, iSwim, which foster water safety skills and swimming lessons to our youngest students. Recent efforts at the state level have strengthened our pledge to advocate on behalf of the children of our community. This commitment to student safety has undoubtedly saved precious lives. Nevertheless, drowning continues to be the leading cause of death of children aged 1 to 4 in Florida.

Our schools participate in a myriad of activities that serve to teach and remind our students, their parents, and staff, of the importance of practicing water safety. We are blessed with miles of beautiful beaches, private and public pools, and waterways and ponds for the enjoyment of all. However, these are potentially deadly places for children. Our schools offer the following, to name just a few:

- The Red Cross WHALES (Water Habits are Learned Early) water safety curriculum in grades Kindergarten through five;
- Water safety events;
- iSwim content reviewed in Physical Education classes in secondary grades; and
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in all elementary schools.

Through a continuous effort of expanding the collaboration between M-DCPS, local municipalities, and non-profit organizations we can continue saving lives.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse April 2016 as Water Safety Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**Replacement
B-15**