

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: POSTHUMOUS CONFERRING OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS  
TO PARENTS OF DECEASED STUDENTS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL  
SUPPORT**

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

At the School Board meeting of June 22, 2016, the Board approved Agenda Item H-6, authorizing the Superintendent to implement procedures for the conferring of high school diplomas to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of deceased students. School Operations developed the following procedures:

- Deceased students who were enrolled in grades 9-12 will be recognized during their graduating class commencement ceremony at the request of the parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Recognition of the deceased students will not be marked as an official graduation. Therefore, student credits will not be a consideration for parent(s)/guardian(s) participation.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) of the deceased student(s) will be seated in a VIP section located in the close proximity to the stage.
- At the beginning of the roll call of graduates, the deceased student's name will be announced, and the parent(s)/guardian(s) will have the option of walking on stage to receive a posthumous diploma.

While we cannot compensate for the loss of their child, we would like to extend the parents a small token of solace and comfort by honoring their child for their efforts while in school.

In an effort to truly cement the School Board's efforts to honor the memory of students who have tragically passed away before their graduation, this item seeks to have promulgated into policy the previously established procedures set forth by School Operations regarding the conferring of high school diplomas to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of deceased students.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings to incorporate the previously established procedures for the conferring of high school diplomas to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of deceased students into a policy to be approved by the Board.