

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: GIRL TO GIRL MENTORING INITIATIVE

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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

Mentors have proven to help cultivate leadership skills by engaging with mentees and focusing on achieving their goals. They have the necessary experience to guide mentees in the right direction, as mentoring improves self-esteem, positive interaction, school performance, social skills, grade point averages, and scores on standardized tests. Children have also been found to have more confidence, fewer behavioral problems, increased belief in their abilities to succeed in school, and less anxiety related to peer pressure when they have been mentored.

Research shows that one of four female students report their greatest challenges in attending college are confidence, motivation, or support. Having a mentor has proven to improve academic, social, and economic prospects which is essential in the development of young girls as they look for role models to help them gain their confidence and expand their opportunities. Additionally, research indicates that mothers, or mother figures, who are high school and college graduates, are able to more appropriately tailor cognitively stimulating activities to their children's developmental level and are more equipped to help kids do homework and study for tests.

Creating a districtwide program that would tap the strength, energy, and capacity of local community, civic, educational, and professional organization to provide women mentors to our female students could have a long lasting and life changing impact on generations of young ladies. Mentors would help their mentees cultivate leadership skills, learn to focus on achieving goals, develop self-esteem, and necessary life skills. We know mentoring makes a difference in school performance, social skills, grade point averages, and even scores on standardized tests. Therefore we should do all we can to provide our girls with this very important resources.

This item seeks the support of the School Board of Miami-Dade County to establish a girl-to-girl mentoring initiative. The initiative would assist in the development of girls in Miami-Dade County Public Schools through a program that pairs young women with accomplished female mentors throughout our community. The adult women mentors would serve to provide the young ladies with a window into their possible futures and would provide guidance and support as they connect with their mentees through shared experiences.

This Item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorneys' Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, support the establishment of a girl to girl mentoring initiative.