

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL “WALK TO SCHOOL DAY”, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “WALKSAFE” PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM, DURING THE WEEK OF THE EVENT

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

International “Walk to School Day,” planned for October 2, 2019, is designed to promote awareness about pedestrian safety among students, parents, and schools. The program reinforces safe routes to schools and safe walking skills, as well as walking as exercise to combat childhood obesity. The program is environmentally friendly because it reduces pollution generated by school-related traffic, and reinforces the importance of obeying school zone speed limits.

In 2018, the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) [currently the Miami-Dade Transportation Organization (TPO)] and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee endorsed the “Walk to School Day” event. This safety awareness campaign is crucial in our communities, as alarming data provided by Ryder Trauma Center and Nicklaus Children’s Hospital reveals 26 children under the age of 15 were injured in traffic crashes in Miami-Dade County during 2017. Between January and June of 2018, there were five (5) injuries reported for children under the age of 15 related to traffic crashes.

In October 2018, 203 schools implemented the “WalkSafe” pedestrian safety program curriculum to coincide with the “Walk to School Day” event. The Office of Physical Education and Health Literacy will continue to spearhead its implementation at all District elementary schools. “WalkSafe” was created by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to reduce pediatric pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

Both programs are operated at no cost to the District.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the 2019 International “Walk to School Day”, and implement the “WalkSafe” pedestrian safety program curriculum during the week of the event.