

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-064 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING SPECIAL OLYMPICS ELITE UNIFIED BANNER
SCHOOL HOMESTEAD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND MIAMI-
DADE SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics is the world's largest provider of fitness training, education and athletic competition, coupled with social, life, and leadership skill development opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities or a similar developmental disability. With over 103,500 competitions around the world, training takes place every day, with families, athletes and volunteers leading the charge. Special Olympics Florida, founded in 1972, is an accredited program of Special Olympics Inc., and serves as one of the largest volunteer-driven athletic organizations in the state. Through their Unified Champion Schools Program, social inclusion is promoted by bringing together young people with and without disabilities on sports teams, through inclusive student clubs, together in school or community wide initiatives, and by fostering youth leadership. Special Olympics Miami-Dade and Southeast Regional Director Lindsey Smith work to support this movement, participating schools, and the 6,500 athletes they serve throughout the county.

With a remarkable record and history of participation in the Unified Champion Schools Program, Homestead Senior High School remains committed to the core mission and ideals of the initiative. During the 2019-20 school year, they continue to exhibit commitment to high level involvement and engagement in the program and are proud to retain their distinction as an Elite National Unified Champion School. Through strategic planning and implementation, Homestead is successfully utilizing sports as a catalyst for social inclusion and attitude and behavioral change. They proudly provide student athletes with numerous opportunities to showcase their talents, build friendships, and achieve greatness.

Following a legacy of success in 2018 taking home the Gold medal in the Unified Flag Football Division I game and as Miami-Dade's County's first and Florida's only unified team to compete at the USA Games, additional initiatives implemented this year yielded great results, as seen by an increase in the:

- number of female athletes and partners involved in all sports
- use of technology to highlight the achievements and increase awareness of the Special Olympics program at Homestead Senior High School
- number of coaches to meet the needs of a growing program
- completion of service projects to help the community

**Good Cause
B-9**

Impressive season highlights from 2019 include:

- **February** - State Games, Unified Basketball Team, Gold medal
- **March** - FHSAA State Championships, Basketball, Runner Up
- **April** - Penn Relays Philadelphia Pennsylvania, 4x100 traditional, Gold medal & 4x100 Unified Gold and Silver medal
 - 2019 FHSAA State Track Championship Jacksonville Fl. Boys 4x100 Unified, Gold Medal & 4x400 Unified, Silver medal; Girls 4x100 Unified, Bronze & 4x400 Unified, Bronze
 - FHSAA State Flag Football State Championship, Tampa Fl., State Champion
 - *Special Olympics Athlete and Unified Partner of the Year recognized at the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Scholar Athlete Breakfast*
- **May** - Tennis State Championships, Orlando Fl., 2 Gold and 1 Silver medal
 - Summer State Games, Orlando Fl., Volleyball Unified Level 1, Silver medal, Level 3, Bronze
 - Youth Summit, Tampa Fl.
- **October** - FHSAA Bowling State Championships Final Four
 - Family Harvest Miami High Exhibition Soccer Match
 - NIRSA Regionals Swamp Bowl Champions, Gainesville, Fl., Unified Flag Football
- **November** - Fall State Classic Unified Flag Football (2) Level 1 teams Gold and Silver Medal (Played each other for Championship)
 - Qualified for FHSAA State Championship in May
 - Fall State Classic Gymnastics - a host of Gold and Silver Medals between the 3 athletes

The Unified athletes, coaches and partners that dedicate their time and efforts to achieving this level of success are most certainly the backbone of the program exhibiting grit, determination and a spirit of comradery and inclusion that speaks to the values we hold dear. The Homestead Senior High School community and Miami-Dade Special Olympics are to be commended for their steadfast support and promotion of the ideals behind the Special Olympics Unified Champion School Sports Program.

ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-064 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Special Olympics Elite Unified Banner School Homestead Senior High School and Miami-Dade Special Olympics.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-064
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING SPECIAL OLYMPICS ELITE UNIFIED BANNER SCHOOL HOMESTEAD
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND MIAMI-DADE SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

WHEREAS, Special Olympics Florida, founded in 1972, is an accredited program of Special Olympics Inc., and serves as one of the largest volunteer-driven athletic organizations in the state. Through their Unified Champion Schools Program, social inclusion is promoted by bringing together young people with and without disabilities on sports teams, through inclusive student clubs, together in school or community wide initiatives, and by fostering youth leadership. Special Olympics Miami-Dade and Southeast Regional Director Lindsey Smith work to support this movement, participating schools, and the 6,500 athletes they serve throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, with a remarkable record and history of participation in the Unified Champion Schools Program, Homestead Senior High School remains committed to the core mission and ideals of the initiative. During the 2019-20 school year, they continue to exhibit commitment to high level involvement and engagement in the program and are proud to retain their distinction as an Elite National Unified Champion School; and

WHEREAS, through strategic planning and implementation, Homestead is successfully utilizing sports as a catalyst for social inclusion and attitude and behavioral change. They proudly provide student athletes with numerous opportunities to showcase their talents, build friendships, and achieve greatness. This year the Special Olympics Athlete and Unified Partner of the Year designations belonged to Homestead Senior High School as recognized during the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Scholar Athlete Breakfast; and

WHEREAS, following a legacy of success in 2018 taking home the Gold medal in the Unified Flag Football Division I game and as Miami-Dade's County's first and Florida's only unified team to compete at the USA Games, additional initiatives implemented this year yielded great results, as seen by an increase in the number of female athletes and partners involved in all sports; use of technology to highlight the achievements and increase awareness of the Special Olympics program at Homestead Senior High School; number of coaches to meet the needs of a growing program and the completion of service projects to help the community; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 season will be noted as one of the most noteworthy not solely for its achievements and triumph in all sports and arenas, but for standard set by the Unified athletes, coaches and partners that dedicate their time and efforts to achieving this level of success. They the backbone of the program exhibiting grit, determination and a spirit of comradery and inclusion that speaks to the values we hold dear. The Homestead Senior High School community and Miami-Dade Special Olympics are to be commended for their steadfast support and promotion of the ideals behind the Special Olympics Unified Champion School Sports Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-064 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Special Olympics Elite Unified Banner School Homestead Senior High School and Miami-Dade Special Olympics.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this eleventh day of December, A.D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary