

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

Co-Sponsors:      Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair  
                          Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall  
                          Ms. Susie V. Castillo  
                          Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman  
                          Dr. Martin Karp  
                          Dr. Lubby Navarro  
                          Dr. Marta Pérez  
                          Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas

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**SUBJECT:            THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
                          APPROVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF JULY 2020 AS HEALTHY VISION  
                          MONTH**

**COMMITTEE:        ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

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

Aware of the role that vision plays in students' learning, on January 22, 1997, this School Board unanimously approved Board Item B-5, authorizing the Superintendent to amend former Board Rule 6GX13-5D 1.021, current Board Policy 2410, *School Health Services Program*, to include vision and hearing screening for all students from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the United States approximately 6.8% of children under the age of 18 have been diagnosed with an eye or vision condition and nearly 3% are either blind or visually impaired. Moreover, over 60 million of American adults are estimated to be at risk for significant vision loss or blindness from eye diseases such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and macular degeneration (AMD).

Statistically, every twelve (12) minutes someone develops a problem with their vision, with the caveat that 75% of these problems are preventable or treatable with regular eye examinations. For this reason, the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) recommends eye disease screening for early detection, in addition to regular eye examinations.

This item seeks to endorse **Healthy Vision Month**, which this year is being observed in July, as a way to raise community awareness about the importance of taking care of one's eye health. It has been a long-time initiative of mine to ensure that children's eyes remain healthy. I strongly encourage every parent to take their children to visit an eye doctor regularly.

**Revised  
H-4**

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the endorsement of July 2020 as **Healthy Vision Month.**