

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL “WALK TO SCHOOL DAY” AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “WALKSAFE” PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

International “Walk to School Day,” planned for October 7, 2020, 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.

This safety awareness campaign is crucial in our communities, as alarming data provided by Ryder Trauma Center and Nicklaus Children’s Hospital reveals that 14 children under the age of 15 were injured in traffic crashes in Miami-Dade County during the year 2019. Between January and June of 2020, there were five (5) injuries reported for children under the age of 15 related to traffic crashes.

In October 2019, 188 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.

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, endorse the 2020 International “Walk to School Day”, and implement the “WalkSafe” pedestrian safety program curriculum.

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