

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROMOTE THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH “WALK OUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DAY”**

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

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

At the July 15, 2020 Miami-Dade County School Board meeting, the School Board approved Item H-7, proffered by Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, which endorsed the 2020 International “Walk to School Day” and implemented the “WalkSafe” pedestrian safety program curriculum during the International “Walk Our Children to School Day” on October 7, 2020.

In prior years, this unique opportunity was taken to promote the District’s Free School Breakfast Program (SBP) for students on this day by inviting all parents and guardians who walk to school, to remain at the site and enjoy breakfast with their children. We recognized that many children may not eat a nutritious breakfast every morning. Now more than ever, many families are living on tight budgets and may not be able to provide good breakfast meals at home. In other instances, mental and physical health is more of an issue rather than income.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and needed safety measures, parents and guardians would be educated further on ways to participate in the free SBP regardless of whether students are at a school site or at home. The importance of eating breakfast can still be promoted and encouraged on “Walk Our Children to School Day,” where students who are on a virtual platform learn more about our grab n’ go meals available, while those who attend a brick and mortar site are able to include breakfast as part of their school day.

Throughout the time of school closures, the District delivered free breakfast and lunch to 50 school food distribution locations across our county, and program waivers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) allowed for the distribution of school breakfast and lunch meals to children 18 years or younger. The Department of Food and Nutrition has distributed over 2.5 million free school breakfasts and continues to monitor national, state, and local health and safety guidelines as we navigate through this new normal. School food service personnel will maintain all health and safety measures in serving school meals through grab n’ go meals or serving lines at school. For the 2020-2021 school year, the USDA has extended flexibilities through June 30, 2021 for the SBP and National School Lunch Program to adjust meal pattern requirements, allow meal service outside of group settings and standard times; and allow parent/guardian pick-up of meals.

The Miami-Dade County Public School's Breakfast Program was enacted to ensure that school children are being served a nutritious breakfast daily. The meal provides one-fourth the Recommended Dietary Allowances for school age children over a week period and complies with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Studies conclude that students who have school breakfast eat more fruit, drink more milk and consume less saturated fat than those who don't eat school breakfast. In addition, national studies indicate that students who eat school breakfast have improved math grades and reading scores, increased attention, reduced absence and tardy rates, and improved psycho-social behavior.

school day. Federal meal reimbursements received fund the Universal Free Breakfast Program for students, and the charge for adults and non-students cover costs that are not reimbursed or subsidized by the government.

Costs and flexibilities associated with school meal services have been a priority in District advocacy, and the District will continue to pursue fiscal relief related to fixed overhead for school meal staffing in light of pre-crisis reimbursement limitations.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney for legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to provide information to students and parents regarding the School Breakfast Program on October 7, 2020 in conjunction with the International "Walk Our Children to School Day." Including all the options available to participate in the M-DCPS breakfast program during the COVID Pandemic.