

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF JANUARY 2021 AS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Mentoring, at its core, guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter. Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects a young person to personal growth and development, and social and economic opportunity.

Launched in 2002 by The National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR) and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, National Mentoring Month focuses national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us—individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits—can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people. This campaign celebrates mentoring and the positive effect it can have on young lives. Its goals are to:

- raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms,
- recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people, and
- promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

National partners work with local leaders to organize special events in their communities supported by local media outlets and public officials. These events help interested adults learn how to turn their concern for young people into direct action by becoming mentors. This year, many of these activities and events may have to be conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several National Mentoring Month events are recognized at the national level and are celebrated on social media. Some of these include:

- January 7, 2021 – I am a Mentor Day. A day for volunteer mentors to celebrate their role and reflect on the ways mentees have enhanced their world.

- January 17, 2021 – International Mentoring Day. In honor of Muhammad Ali's birthday, a day of international conversation on social media where photos, videos, and messages of powerful mentoring stories are shared. Use #MentoringDay and #Mentoring month in your posts.
- January 18, 2021 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. A day to share in the inspirational worlds of Dr. King and elevate the spirit of service through volunteerism.
- January 27-January 29, 2021 – National Mentoring Summit
- January 29, 2021 - #ThankYourMentorDay.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse January 2021 as National Mentoring Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.