

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MARCH 2021 AS FLORIDA BICYCLE MONTH AND RECOGNITION OF THE BIKESAFE® PROGRAM AT DISTRICT'S MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

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

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

The environment and health benefits of bicycling as a healthy mode of transportation for individuals and communities have been formally researched by the Florida Department of Transportation. The studies have shown that dedicated programs and partnerships effectively promote and encourage bicycling activities. These programs and partnerships are most successful when distinct groups, such as commuters and school children, are targeted to promote increased physical and recreational activities.

In this regard, the School District has partnered with the BikeSafe® Program to teach safe bicycling skills at the middle school level. The BikeSafe® Program was created by Dr. Gillian Hotz at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to address Miami-Dade County's high rates of bicyclist injuries and fatalities. The BikeSafe® safety lessons are applicable to all ages; however, the BikeSafe® educational curriculum focuses on middle school age children, as this age group has been determined to be at high risk for bicycle injuries and fatalities due to their developing physical skills and increased sense independence.

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, this year's school festivities and events in celebration of National Bike to School Day in May have been postponed for the safety of our students and school community. Nevertheless, it is recommended that Miami-Dade County Public Schools continue to promote the benefits of bicycling as a physical activity that supports personal health and well-being, in addition to protecting the environment.

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 March 2021 as Florida Bicycle Month and recognize the BikeSafe® Program at District's middle schools.