

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)
RECOGNIZES NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY
ON FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

The first National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) was observed in 1999 as a grassroots-education effort to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and treatment in communities of color. Black/African American people historically accounted for a higher proportion of new HIV diagnoses and people with HIV, compared to other races and ethnicities. In 2018, Black/African American people accounted for 13% of the US population but 42% (16,002) of the 37,968 new HIV diagnoses in the United States and dependent areas, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). These statistics reflect the need for continued awareness and education about HIV/AIDS in our Black/African communities.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) is important because it is a part of a major offensive against HIV/AIDS spreading in the African American community, and it's working. Still, despite increased education efforts and a continued push for testing and treatment options, there are 471,500 African Americans living with HIV, according to the CDC. However, the number of newly infected people is declining or leveling off. After 18 years of persistent grassroots efforts to forge partnerships in funding research, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day still matters because it keeps the conversation going not only in the black community, but in all communities.

Our students must not forget and should be reminded that HIV/AIDS is still prevalent and that it does not discriminate, regardless of gender, age, socio economic status, race ethnicity or religion. Anyone can be infected if they are not aware and educated about prevention methods. Let us not forget that February 7th is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and that we should all take heed and arm ourselves with as much information as possible until there is a cure for this disease. I believe we all can play a role in helping to bring awareness in our community.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizes National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7, 2021 in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.