Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of January 12, 2022

January 6, 2022

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chairman

Co-Sponsors: Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas
} ADDED

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MARCH 2022 AS FLORIDA BICYCLE MONTH AND RECOGNITION OF THE BIKESAFE® PROGRAM AT DISTRICT'S MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: **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.

Safe bicycling is encouraged all year-round. However, there are two key months of the year, March and May, when bicycling is most celebrated in the State.

- Florida Bike Month: March has been designated as Florida Bike Month due to our ideal spring climate. Florida Bike Month, similar to national initiatives, promotes healthy lifestyle choices by encouraging physical fitness to help reduce the chances of chronic illness and obesity. Increased bicycle usage helps lower motor vehicle emissions and global warming.

- National Bike to School Day: The National Bike to School Day festivities, taking place on May 4, 2022, further promote safe bicycling skills and activities throughout the District. All schools are encouraged to participate. This event builds on the successes of the Walk to School Day initiative celebrated throughout the world each October.

Revised
H-5

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN: The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, promote March 2022 as Florida Bike Month, encourage participation in the National Bike To School Day festivities, and recognize the BikeSafe® Program for its efforts in improving bicycle safety at middle schools.