

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall

Dr. Lubby Navarro

Dr. Marta Pérez

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

Ms. Luisa Santos

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISH ACCOMODATIONS FOR THE EID ACROSS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Eid is a Muslim holiday that is celebrated twice a year; the first celebration is Eid al-Fitr and the second is Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Fitr, which means “Festival of Breaking Fast”, marks the end of the month-long holiday of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha, which means “Feast of Sacrifice”, is the celebration of the prophet Abraham. Both Eid holidays are extremely important celebrations in the Islamic world and are celebrated by millions around the world.

At Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), we have thousands of students, teachers and families from different backgrounds, ethnicities and religions. It is essential that we are equally inclusive with all groups.

Both Eid holidays are determined by the sighting of the moon (lunar calendar), which shifts the dates each year (about 10 days earlier than the previous year).

While Eid al-Adha occurs during the month of July during the 2022-23 calendar year, when students are on summer recess, Eid al-Fitr is projected to take place in April of 2022-23, which currently coincides with standardized testing across M-DCPS and the state of Florida. However, students should not have to decide between their education and their religious beliefs. We need to ensure that all our students, regardless of their background, are accommodated and feel welcome. We should prioritize both education as well as personal beliefs and values.

This item seeks to authorize the Superintendent to explore ways to accommodate students whose observance of religious holidays, including the Eid holidays, may conflict with the standardized testing days across Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. LUCIA BAEZ-GELLER:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to explore ways to accommodate students whose observance of religious holidays, including the Eid holidays, may conflict with the standardized testing days across Miami-Dade County Public Schools.