

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022 AS *NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH* IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

COMMITTEE: **PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has designated the month of September as *National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month*, a moment in time to share resources and stories and bring to light this highly stigmatized subject. This is also the time to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness, and connect individuals with suicidal emotions to treatment services. Suicidal thoughts, very much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or economic background. Suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be judged as normal and frequently may suggest more serious issues that must be assessed and treated.

NAMI has reported that suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States and the third leading cause of death for people aged 10-24, and the second leading cause of death for people aged 15-24. Additionally, more than 90% of children who die by suicide have a mental health condition.

While suicide prevention is important to address year-round, *National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month* provides a committed time for everyone to come together with collective passion and strength around a difficult subject. We can all benefit from having honest discussions about mental health conditions and suicide. One genuine conversation may change a life.

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 the month of September 2022 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).