

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Christi Fraga
Dr. Lubby Navarro
Ms. Luisa Santos

SUBJECT: EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING LAUREN'S KIDS PROGRAMMING IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Lauren's Kids is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation established in 2007, which educates adults and children about abuse prevention and personal safety. Through comprehensive in-school programming, resources for teachers and families, and awareness campaigns, Lauren's Kids helps to empower students to be able to recognize safe versus unsafe situations. This advocacy work is rooted in evidence-based education, which is the number one tool that students can use to prevent, identify, and protect themselves from harmful situations.

The Lauren's Kids "*Safer, Smarter Schools*" programming enables students to effectively learn critical safety strategies. In particular, the "*Safer, Smarter Kids*" programming is primarily focused on educating elementary students, with grade-level specific lessons as well as program adaptations for students with special needs. This includes teaching students about concepts such as respecting others, developing self-esteem, recognizing consent, peer pressure, bullying, establishing, and understanding personal boundaries, and identifying trusted adults and accessing help.

It is important that students are taught these core concepts, such as personal boundaries, throughout their lives in order to develop healthy relationships with their peers. Starting in elementary school, introducing students to these concepts can be lifesaving. Students would be armed with the information and resources they need to identify and avoid unsafe situations. By training our Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) counselors, we would be able to implement the Lauren's Kids personal safety programming in all our schools throughout the district. Counselors would be trained to teach elementary students about these age-appropriate, core concepts focused on personal boundaries. While older students are taught personal safety during Physical Education through the Monique Burr Foundation, younger students are taught in the classrooms. By effectively training counselors, we would be reaching our elementary school students earlier on. At the end of the school year, teachers, counselors, and students would be surveyed on how effective this programming is, in order to gather data and improve the delivery method.

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**Revised²
H-10**

This item directs the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of expanding opportunities for counselors and student services support staff to be trained in Lauren’s Kids programming and provide a response to the School Board no later than the November 16, 2022, School Board meeting.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUCIA BAEZ-GELLER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida directs the Superintendent to:

1. explore the feasibility of expanding opportunities for counselors and student services support staff to be trained in Lauren’s Kids; and
2. provide a response to the School Board no later than the November 16, 2022 School Board meeting.

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