

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

SUBJECT: FLAG POLICY

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

School Board Policy 8810, *The American Flag and Official Motto of the State of Florida*, states that the flag of the United States “shall be raised above each school and/or at other appropriate places during all school sessions, weather permitting. The flag shall be raised before the opening of school and taken down at its close every day. The flag is to be flown at half-staff in mourning for designated principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.” This policy also provides that “Each classroom shall display a flag of the United States that is at least two (2) feet by three (3) feet,” and that “The official motto of the State of Florida, ‘In God We Trust,’ shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in all schools in the District and in each building used by the School Board.”

Florida Statute section 1000.06, Display of Flags, outlines that each public K-20 educational institution that is provided or authorized by the Constitution and laws of Florida shall display daily in each classroom the flag of the United States. It is important that the District adhere to section F.S. 1000.06 and Board Policy 8810, to allow the District to remain neutral with regard to the display of flags at schools in accordance with Board Policy 2240, *Controversial Issues and Student Expression* and restrict the display of flags that promote a political issue, political party, and political candidates in accordance with Policy 9700, *Relations with Special Interest Groups*.

This agenda item seeks to direct the Superintendent to review existing relevant School Board Policies, state statutes, federal guidelines, and if necessary, amend School Board Policy 8810, *The American Flag and Official Motto of the State of Florida*, to ensure that the American flag and the official motto of the State of Florida are displayed as described in School Board Policy 8810; and develop and implement a process to monitor compliance with School Board Policy 8810 at all District schools, including but not limited to providing schools with the resources to ensure the display of the American flag outside each school and inside each classroom. Additionally, this item seeks to, if deemed necessary, initiate rulemaking to amend relevant School Board Policies and procedures to afford instructional flexibility in the display of flags in the classroom where appropriate per curriculum and in accordance with School Board policy 5780, *Parents’ Bill of Rights*.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. ROBERTO J. ALONSO:**

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

1. review existing relevant School Board Policies, State Statutes, Federal Guidelines, and if necessary, amend School Board Policy 8810, *The American Flag and Official Motto of the State of Florida*, to ensure that the American flag and the official motto of the State of Florida are displayed as described in School Board Policy 8810;
2. develop and implement a process to monitor compliance with School Board Policy 8810 at all District schools, including but not limited to providing schools with the resources to ensure the display of the American flag outside each school and inside each classroom;
3. if deemed necessary, initiate rulemaking to amend relevant School Board Policies and procedures to afford instructional flexibility in the display of flags in the classroom where appropriate per curriculum and in accordance with School Board Policy 5780, *Parents' Bill of Rights*; and
4. Provide a report on the implementation of this action at the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, and Technology Committee meeting of January 2023.