

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF FATHERS IN EDUCATION DAY THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023; AND FATHERS IN ACTION AND ADVOCACY WEEK, APRIL 17 THROUGH APRIL 21, 2023

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

The Fatherhood Task Force of South Florida, whose mission is to increase the participation and connection of fathers in the lives of children, has stressed that by increasing male participation in the educational activities of their children in schools, they will do much better educationally and socially. A number of initiatives have been instituted to improve educational opportunities for children from Pre-K through high school by promoting fathers' involvement in education both in school and in the home.

Throughout the years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has partnered with the Fatherhood Task Force of South Florida to enhance its mission to strengthen and cultivate relationships between fathers and their children through Fathers in Education Day and Fathers in Action and Advocacy Week. The Office of Family and Community Engagement (OFCE) has played an essential role in the success of the program. OFCE has been actively involved with the Parent Academy, with school-site administrators, with Title I Community Involvement Specialists and Community Liaison Specialists, with the Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA, and other entities to involve the entire community in the Fathers in Education program. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and male mentors have been invited to participate in the different activities initiated by this school district. They take time to read to students, share their experiences, stories, hobbies, or other interests with them. Fathers in Action & Advocacy Week offers workshops throughout the community regarding father and family engagement and skill building, as well as discussions of advocacy and legislative issues.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, with the full support of the School Board and the Superintendent, has become the frontrunner county in Florida and serves as a beacon for other school districts, creating a successful partnership with the Fatherhood Task Force since 2014. Participating fathers continue to report that they have seen how important their role is as supporters of education and how enthusiastic and motivated their children are when they take a special interest in their schoolwork.

Fathers in Education Day and Fathers in Action and Advocacy Week are positive initiatives demonstrating that Miami-Dade County Public Schools has taken a leadership role in underscoring the importance of fathers and male role model engagement in all children's lives and in closing the academic achievement gap.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the celebration of the tenth anniversary of Fathers in Education Day, Thursday, April 21, 2023; and Fathers in Action and Advocacy Week, April 17 through April 21, 2023.