

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair  
Mr. Daniel Espino, Vice Chair  
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso  
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller  
Ms. Monica Colucci  
Dr. Steve Gallon III  
Ms. Luisa Santos

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**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE MAY 2023 AS HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH AND AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO FOSTER RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Throughout the history of Haiti, May has been a month for commemorating Haitian culture, with Haitians across the globe celebrating their achievements and contributions. An important date in Haitian history is May 18, 1803, when the official Haitian flag of blue and red was created by Haitian leaders at the end of the Congress of Arcahaie. Haitian Heritage Month provides our very diverse community an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many historic, cultural, social, and economic contributions of Haitians to the United States and the world. The observance of Haitian Heritage Month will allow students, their families, and the community to share in the rich culture and history of Haiti.

On January 1, 1804, Haiti gained its independence from France to become the world's first Black republic and the second in the Americas to free itself from colonial rule. For over a century later, the Haitian people assisted in the liberation of slaves throughout South America and the Western Hemisphere. The people of Haiti and their descendants have also made numerous contributions to politics as well as the arts and sciences. Jean Baptiste Point DuSable is known as the founder of the city of Chicago. The National Audubon Society was founded in honor of John James Audubon, a Haitian-born nationalist, ornithologist, and artist. Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides students with many programs that emphasize multicultural education, positive inter-group relations, and cultural sensitivity to promote understanding and harmony among people of all cultures.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:** That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, observe the month of May 2023 as Haitian Heritage Month.

**Revised  
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