

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE OCTOBER 2023 AS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

October 2023 marks the 78th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week". In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Currently, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) provides numerous programs and services to increase training and support employment opportunities for students with disabilities. These employment training programs, school-to-work programs and summer youth internship programs, many in collaboration with local municipalities and community organizations, support students in the transition to post-secondary settings and provide opportunities to participate in job skills development. Through these programs, we continuously reaffirm our commitment to an inclusive community that increases access and opportunities to all, including individuals with disabilities.

The district pledges to continue to take steps throughout the year to recruit, hire, retain, and advance individuals with disabilities and work to pursue the goals of opportunity, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and independent living for people with disabilities.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. LUCIA BAEZ-GELLER:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize and observe October 2023 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month and continue to support job training and employment opportunities for students with disabilities.