

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Mr. Daniel Espino, Vice Chair } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco
Ms. Monica Colucci
Dr. Steve Gallon III
Ms. Luisa Santos

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.