

Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Mr. Daniel Espino, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco
Ms. Monica Colucci
Ms. Luisa Santos

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SUBJECT: GUN SENSE AND SAFETY INFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN ACROSS MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, SCHOOL, STUDENT, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety and security of our students, teachers, and families, and providing all community members with the resources and services necessary to be equipped with knowledge and information to be proactive about safety. At the School Board Meeting of June 22, 2022, Board Chair Ms. Mari Tere Rojas proffered Agenda Item H-10, calling for a review and evaluation of current school safety and security protocols, procedures, and training, as well as an in-depth examination of recent school shootings. At the School Board Meeting of July 17, 2023, Board Member Dr. Steve Gallon III proffered Agenda Item H-4, calling for a review of current School Board policies and procedures regarding weapons on school campuses and district-owned property. M-DCPS has always prioritized safety and security, and we continue to advocate for policies and procedures that protect our students.

Currently, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm, and the majority of children in gun-owning households know where the gun is stored. One study showed that 41% of adolescents in gun-owning households report having “easy access” to guns in their homes. In incidents of gunfire on school grounds, up to 76% of shooters under the age of 18 obtained the gun they used from their home or the home of relatives and friends. Another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member. Secure firearm storage practices are associated with an 85% reduction in the risk of self-inflicted or unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens.

In order to be proactive about gun-related incidents, the community should be educated and informed about gun safety and responsible gun storage practices. While there are community resources and programming available regarding gun safety, it might be helpful to consider the possibility of providing additional resources that are easily visible and accessible for our parents and families. As M-DCPS values and prioritizes the safety of our students, it is our responsibility to promote a culture of safety and awareness and to encourage responsible gun ownership to prevent gun-related incidents.

**Revised
H-10**

By exploring the feasibility of launching an informational campaign, we aim to investigate strategies and resources. This effort is to ensure that parents and families are equipped with knowledge on topics such as safely storing firearms, addressing gun-related concerns, responsible gun ownership, and understanding the consequences of gun-related incidents. This will empower all groups to have the knowledge and skills necessary to promote gun safety and respond accordingly when there are concerns. The informational campaign can include parent webinars, social media content, and material to send home to parents, in English, Spanish, and Creole, that explains the importance of secure gun storage and the consequences when a child gains unauthorized access to improperly stored firearms.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of launching a comprehensive Gun Sense and Safety Informational Campaign for parents and families across Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The school district can explore offering informational sessions, webinars, workshops, social media, and letters to parents to deliver this information, while working with Parent Academy, community organizations and local law enforcement.

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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, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Explore the feasibility of launching a Gun Sense and Safety Informational Campaign for students, parents, and families across Miami-Dade County Public Schools through informational sessions, workshops, webinars, social media, letters to parents, and other communications, while working with Parent Academy, community organizations and local law enforcement; and
2. present a report regarding the feasibility of this item by the Personnel, Student, School, and Community Support Committee Meeting of March 6, 2024.

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