

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 23-035 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE WALKSAFE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI KIDZ NEUROSCIENCE CENTER, INCLUDING THE 2023 WALKSAFE STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

The WalkSafe Program, under the KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was developed to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level. The program involves a combination of educational initiatives, community outreach, and research efforts to educate children on pedestrian safety rules, safe crossing techniques, and the importance of being alert, predictable, and visible while walking. WalkSafe incorporates interactive presentations, hands-on activities, and engaging materials to teach children about pedestrian safety in an age-appropriate manner. The program has reached over 73,000 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students and over 1,100 adults this school year.

In addition to education, WalkSafe collaborates with schools, local organizations, and law enforcement agencies to improve infrastructure and implement safety measures near schools. This includes initiatives such as enhanced crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and improved signage to increase pedestrian safety.

Furthermore, WalkSafe conducts research to assess the effectiveness of their interventions and identify areas for improvement. By collecting data and evaluating the impact of the program, WalkSafe aims to continuously enhance pedestrian safety initiatives and promote evidence-based practices.

Lastly, as part of the evidence-based 3-day curriculum, the program concludes with an art component where students are asked to encapsulate their learnings from the curriculum and artistically express their knowledge. This year's theme asked students to submit an art piece that demonstrates safe and complete streets within their communities. Not only did the program receive drawings and paintings as submissions, but students evolved their submissions to now consist of 3-D models.

This year's WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners are:

- Camila Cardoza (1st grader from Frank C. Martin K-8 Center)
- Madison Carrasquillo (2nd grader from Hialeah Elementary)
- Claire Darias (4th grader from Hialeah Elementary)

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida is honored to recognize the WalkSafe Program at the University of Miami KIDZ Neuroscience Center, including the 2023 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-035 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the WalkSafe Program at the University of Miami KIDZ Neuroscience Center, including the 2023 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners.

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-035 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE WALKSAFE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
MIAMI KIDZ NEUROSCIENCE CENTER, INCLUDING THE 2023 WALKSAFE
STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

WHEREAS, the WalkSafe Program, under the KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was developed to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level;

WHEREAS, the program has reached over 73,000 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students and over 1,100 adults this school year;

WHEREAS, WalkSafe collaborates with schools, local organizations, and law enforcement agencies to improve infrastructure and implement safety measures near schools;

WHEREAS, WalkSafe conducts research to assess the effectiveness of their interventions and identify areas for improvement. WalkSafe aims to continuously enhance pedestrian safety initiatives and promote evidence-based practices;

WHEREAS, as part of the evidence-based 3-day curriculum, the program concludes with an art component where students are asked to encapsulate their learnings from the curriculum and artistically express their knowledge. This year's theme asked students to submit an art piece that demonstrates safe and complete streets within their communities; and

WHEREAS, this year's WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners are:

- Camila Cardoza (1st grader from Frank C. Martin K-8 Center)
- Madison Carrasquillo (2nd grader from Hialeah Elementary)
- Claire Darias (4th grader from Hialeah Elementary)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-035 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the WalkSafe Program at the University of Miami KIDZ Neuroscience Center, including the 2023 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest Winners.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this twenty-first day of June, A. D. 2023

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY