

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
Ms. Mary Blanco
Dr. Steve Gallon III
Ms. Luisa Santos

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**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024,
AS READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school. Furthermore, reading with a child helps to increase their vocabulary and improve their reading fluency and comprehension. As a result, it is vital that we promote reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic success, their preparation for America's jobs of the future, and their ability to compete in a global economy.

To get children and young adults excited about reading and encourage more adults to spend time reading with their children, the National Education Association (NEA) launched the first NEA's Read Across America Day in 1998. On Saturday, March 2, 2024, NEA's Read Across America will mark 26 years of celebrating reading. The organization is celebrating diverse books that explore family, community, courage, and fashion. Since its creation, educators, parents, caregivers, and students have embraced Read Across America and helped to turn it into the largest celebration of reading.

Each year, in cities and towns across the nation, teachers, teenagers, librarians, politicians, actors, athletes, parents, grandparents, and others come together to develop Read Across America Day activities to bring the joy and excitement of reading to children of all ages. In that spirit, this agenda item recommends the endorsement of Saturday, March 2, 2024, as Read Across America Day to be celebrated in all schools in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse Saturday, March 2, 2024, as Read Across America Day, to be celebrated in all Miami-Dade County Public Schools.