

Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-028 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL HEART INSTITUTE PROJECT ADAM SOUTH FLORIDA**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Founded in 1950 by Variety Clubs International, Nicklaus Children's Hospital is South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital exclusively for children, with approximately 850 attending physicians, including more than five hundred pediatric subspecialists. The hospital is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine with many specialty programs routinely ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report since 2008. The hospital is also home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States.

Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) collaborated to prepare school staff and coaches to respond quickly and efficiently in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) and help M-DCPS to be recognized as Heart Safe which includes successful completion of practice drills with the Nicklaus South Florida Project Adam team. M-DCPS recognizes and thanks Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute team for implementing and certifying all Miami-Dade County Public Schools as "Heart Safe," in April 2024.

Cardiac emergencies are the leading cause of death in the United States and unfortunately, the young are not immune from this statistic. Sudden cardiac death in our young is a devastating event with tremendous impact on the family, local community, school, and athletic team. For this reason, a focused effort on cardiac arrest preparedness in schools is critical to protect our children and others in the community.

Project ADAM South Florida is a team of clinicians from Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute who are committed to helping schools implement and sustain lifesaving training and education to school faculty and community organizations where young people are present.

Project ADAM (Automated Defibrillator's in Adam's Memory) began in 1999 in Wisconsin after the death of Adam Lemel, who was just 17 years old when he collapsed and died while playing basketball. Adam suffered a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). If cardiac arrest had been identified and treated quickly with CPR and the use of an AED, his life could have been saved. Project ADAM was established by Adam's parents in collaboration with Children's Wisconsin.

Over two hundred lives have been saved by Project Adam since its beginnings.

**REPLACEMENT  
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SCA occurs when the heart stops beating, leading to loss of circulation and loss of consciousness, with no blood flow to the brain and other vital organs. The highest chance of survival is within the first 4 minutes and declines by 10% for every additional minute that circulation is not restored. These events commonly come without warning, making the mission of Project ADAM to be prepared to respond that much more valuable.

A study was conducted in over 2,000 schools throughout the country. A comparison was done of the survival rate of SCA in schools with a cardiac emergency response team versus the survival rate at schools without a cardiac response team. In schools without a cardiac emergency team, the survival rate was 24% compared to an 85% survival rate in schools that had a Project ADAM like program.

Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute believes in the valuable mission of Project Adam and is steadfast in providing schools and community organizations the education and tools to develop and sustain their SCA response programs. It is their hope to one day have every school in South Florida prepared to respond during these critical moments to help save a life from sudden cardiac death.

In Miami-Dade County, there are more than three hundred certified "Heart Safe Schools" and 17 Recreational Park Teams that can successfully activate a sudden cardiac arrest program and an effective emergency response to promote a safe environment for students, visitors, and staff.

Today we celebrate the staffs of every M-DCPS that has received training provided by Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute clinicians in life-saving methods, including response plan development, performing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. MONICA COLUCCI:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-028, recognizing Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute Project ADAM.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-028 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL HEART INSTITUTE PROJECT ADAM**

**WHEREAS**, Nicklaus Children's Hospital is South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital exclusively for children, with approximately 850 attending physicians, including more than five hundred pediatric subspecialists. The hospital is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine with many specialty programs routinely ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report since 2008;

**WHEREAS**, Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute is proud to be an affiliate of Project ADAM, a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve children and adolescents through educational, life-saving programs that help reduce sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) mortality;

**WHEREAS**, In its role as the Project ADAM South Florida Chapter, Nicklaus Children's Heart Hospital is committed to helping implement life-saving training and education programs at schools as well as community organizations to develop and sustain their SCA response programs;

**WHEREAS**, SCA can happen to anyone at any time and is the leading cause of death in young athletes. Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) collaborated to prepare school staff and coaches to respond quickly and efficiently in the event of a SCA and help M-DCPS to be recognized as "Heart Safe", which includes successful completion of practice drills with the Nicklaus South Florida Project Adam team;

**WHEREAS**, Today we celebrate the staffs of every M-DCPS that has received training provided by Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute clinicians in life-saving methods, including response plan development, performing Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators.

**WHEREAS**, There are more than three hundred certified "Heart Safe Schools" and 17 Recreational Park Teams in Miami-Dade County that can successfully activate a sudden cardiac arrest program and an effective emergency response to promote a safe environment for students, visitors, and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, M-DCPS recognizes and thanks Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute team for implementing and certifying all Miami-Dade County Public Schools as "Heart Safe," in April 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 23-028 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing The Nicklaus Children's Hospital Heart Institute Project ADAM.

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

**Presented this seventeenth day of April, A. D. 2024**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary