

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-023 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is a committed leader in environmental education, promoting respect and protection for the natural environment among our students, employees, and community members. Throughout the years, the School Board has promoted initiatives, in and outside classroom, to conserve our natural resources, prevent pollution, reduce, and better manage our waste. These Board efforts have enjoyed the support of community partners whose expertise, technical support, educational programming, and training for students, teachers, staff, and community have amplified the reach and impact of our initiatives. Some of these organizations are: The CLEO Institute, Dream in Green, The Everglades Foundation, and Food Rescue US - South Florida.

**The CLEO Institute**, founded in 2010, is the only women-led nonprofit, nonpartisan organization in Florida exclusively dedicated to climate education, advocacy, and engagement. The Institute believes that building community resilience and adaptive capacity require an informed, engaged, and prepared public. The CLEO Institute works in partnership with M-DCPS' STEAM Department and Sustainability Office to support the school district's sustainability efforts, providing professional development opportunities and climate literacy to educate and empower school communities to live in a more sustainable and healthier environment.

**Dream in Green**, founded in 2006, focuses on environmental stewardship. Its mission is to empower individuals, especially youth, to lead in the response to environmental challenges facing South Florida. It assists diverse organizations, including schools, households, local governments, and businesses to reduce their environmental footprint. Its flagship platform the Green Schools Challenge delivers sustainability education to K-12 students in various type of schools across South Florida. The Green Leadership grants provide monthly grants to schools participating in the Green Schools Challenge throughout the academic year, enabling students to bring their ideas and classroom learning to life.

**The Everglades Foundation**, founded in 1993, works to restore and protect the Everglades through science, advocacy, and education. Since 2014, the Everglades Literacy Program has empowered the next generation of conservation stewards by investing in teachers to drive cultural change within schools for the benefit of local and ecological communities. Created by teachers for teachers, the STEM-based Everglades Literacy Program offers the world's only free, standards-aligned PreK-12 Everglades curriculum. In Miami-Dade, the program has trained nearly 1,900 educators from more than 200 schools.

**REPLACEMENT  
B-5**

**Food Rescue US – South Florida** was launched in Miami-Dade County in January of 2018. It is the local branch of a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing food insecurity through a food rescue model that is simple, sustainable, and scalable. Guided by the principle of “Fill Plates. Not Landfills,” the organization mobilizes local volunteers to pick-up surplus healthy food from local food donors and deliver it directly to local agencies serving those in need. M-DCPS has partnered with Food Rescue US – South Florida to raise awareness among students about food waste, food insecurity, and the impact food waste has on the environment. Through this partnership, the school district has implemented the Share Table program where students can place unopened nonperishable food items to be delivered to local afterschool programs, childcare centers, and shelters for women and children.

This resolution celebrates the exceptional partnerships between The CLEO Institute, Dream in Green, The Everglades Foundation, and Food Rescue US – South Florida with Miami-Dade County Public Schools community. Together, we continue supporting environmental education and sustainability efforts within our schools and throughout Miami-Dade County.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-023 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing sustainability education organizations.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-023 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, throughout the years, the School Board has promoted initiatives, in and outside classroom, to conserve our natural resources, prevent pollution, reduce, and better manage our waste. These Board efforts have enjoyed the support of amazing community partners whose expertise, technical support, educational programming, and training for students, teachers, staff, and community have amplified the reach and impact of our initiatives. Some of these organizations are: The CLEO Institute, Dream in Green, The Everglades Foundation; and Food Rescue US - South Florida.

**WHEREAS, The CLEO Institute**, founded in 2010, is the only women-led nonprofit, nonpartisan organization in Florida exclusively dedicated to climate education, advocacy, and engagement. The CLEO Institute works in partnership with M-DCPS' STEAM Department and Sustainability Office to support the school district's sustainability efforts, providing professional development opportunities and climate literacy to educate and empower school communities to live in a more sustainable and healthier environment; and

**WHEREAS, Dream in Green**, founded in 2006, focuses on environmental stewardship. Its mission is to empower individuals, especially youth, to lead in the response to environmental challenges facing South Florida. Its flagship platform the Green Schools Challenge delivers sustainability education to K-12 students in various type of schools across South Florida. The Green Leadership grants provide monthly grants to schools participating in the Green Schools Challenge throughout the academic year, enabling students to bring their ideas and classroom learning to life; and

**WHEREAS, The Everglades Foundation**, founded in 1993, works to restore and protect the Everglades through science, advocacy, and education. Since 2014, the Everglades Literacy Program has empowered the next generation of conservation stewards by investing in teachers to drive cultural change within schools for the benefit of local and ecological communities. In Miami-Dade County, the program has trained nearly 1,900 educators from more than 200 schools.

**WHEREAS, Food Rescue US – South Florida** was launched in Miami-Dade County in January of 2018. It is the local branch of a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing food insecurity through a food rescue model that is simple, sustainable, and scalable. M-DCPS has partnered with Food Rescue US – South Florida to raise awareness among students about food waste, food insecurity, and the impact food waste has on the environment. Through this partnership, the school district has implemented the Share Table program where students can place unopened nonperishable food items to be delivered to local afterschool programs, childcare centers, and shelters for women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, This resolution celebrates the exceptional partnerships between The CLEO Institute, Dream in Green, The Everglades Foundation, and Food Rescue US – South Florida with Miami-Dade County Public Schools community. Together, we continue supporting environmental education and sustainability efforts within our schools and throughout Miami-Dade County.

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 24-023 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing sustainability education organizations.

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