

Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Board Member

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSE THE 2024 ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL “WALK TO SCHOOL DAY”, AND IMPLEMENT THE “WALKSAFE” PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM CURRICULUM DURING THE WEEK OF THE EVENT

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

International “Walk to School Day,” planned for October 2, 2024, is designed to promote awareness about pedestrian safety among students, parents, and schools. At its regular meeting of September 7, 2022, the School Board approved Good Cause Item H-15, “Walk to School Day”, proffered by School Board Chair Perla Tabares Hantman. The program reinforces safe routes to schools and safe walking skills, as well as walking as exercise to combat childhood obesity. The program is environmentally friendly because it reduces pollution generated by school-related traffic and reinforces the importance of obeying school zone speed limits.

This safety awareness campaign is crucial in our communities, as concerning data provided by Nicklaus Children’s Hospital reveals the six (6) children under the age of 15 were injured in traffic crashes in Miami-Dade County during 2023. Ryder Trauma Center of Jackson Memorial Hospital recorded that there were fourteen (15) injuries reported for children under the age of 15 related to traffic crashes.

In the 2023-2024 school year, 154 schools implemented the “WalkSafe” pedestrian safety program curriculum to coincide with the “Walk to School Day” event. The Office of Physical Education and Health Literacy will continue to spearhead its implementation of all District elementary schools. “WalkSafe” was created by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to reduce pediatric pedestrian injuries and fatalities. Both programs are operated at no cost to the District.

This item does not appear on the published agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published agenda as the issue addressed herein is time sensitive and developed after the publication of the September Board Meeting agenda.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. ROBERTO J. ALONSO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the 2024 Annual International “Walk to School Day”, and implement the “WalkSafe” pedestrian safety program curriculum during the week of the event.

H-11