

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZES THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025, AS NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Many Americans find comfort and strength in prayer during joy and hardship. It's a way to seek guidance, deepen faith, and find hope. Prayer is a personal and communal practice that reflects individual beliefs while connecting diverse communities nationwide. It encompasses various languages, cultures, religions, and worldviews.

The National Day of Prayer, observed annually on the first Thursday of May, falls on Thursday, May 1, 2025. On this day, people of all faiths across the United States are invited to pray for our nation, its leaders, and all who call it home.

This tradition dates back to June 17, 1952, when President Harry Truman signed a Joint Resolution of Congress establishing this annual day of observance. Since then, organizations like the National Prayer Committee and the National Day of Prayer Task Force have played important roles in supporting and organizing events for this occasion.

Each year, the President of the United States typically issues a proclamation recognizing the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer, encouraging citizens to engage in prayer and reflection, whether in places of worship, community gatherings, or privately. This practice has been reinforced through subsequent actions, including a 1988 amendment signed by President Ronald Reagan, which formally designated the first Thursday of May as the annual National Day of Prayer.

This item requests the Board's approval to acknowledge Thursday, May 1, 2025, as the National Day of Prayer, in alignment with all applicable School Board policies and state and federal laws. This recognition underscores our commitment to respecting the diverse spiritual practices and beliefs of our students, families, and community.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the General Counsel's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MR. DANNY ESPINO:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizes Thursday, May 1, 2025, as the National Day of Prayer and directs the Superintendent to inform all schools and District staff to respect students and staff's recognition of the National Day of Prayer in accordance with applicable School Board Policies 8800 – Religious Ceremonies/Observances and Moment of Quiet Reflection, and School Board Policy 8805 – Religious Expression, State and Federal law.