

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-021 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE WALKSAFE PROGRAM AT THE KIDZ NEUROSCIENCE CENTER, MIAMI PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, INCLUDING THE 2025 WALKSAFE STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

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

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

The WalkSafe Program, under the KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was developed to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level. The program involves a combination of educational initiatives, community outreach, and research efforts to educate children on pedestrian safety rules, safe crossing techniques, and the importance of being alert, predictable, and visible while walking. The program has served the Miami-Dade County community since 2001 when a task force of community educators and partners reviewed historical pediatric injury data from Jackson Memorial Medical Center and the Ryder Trauma Center in an attempt to locate the cause of these injuries. The majority of these incidents involved children between the ages of five and 13 years of age, taking place mainly in the vicinity of elementary schools.

WalkSafe incorporates interactive presentations, hands-on activities, and engaging materials to teach children about pedestrian safety in an age-appropriate manner. The program has reached over 69,672 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students this year and within the county the program has reached 1,201 adults and an additional 3,760 children, for a total of over 73,000 children.

In addition to education, WalkSafe collaborates with schools, local organizations, and law enforcement agencies to improve infrastructure and implement safety measures near schools. This includes initiatives such as enhanced crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and improved signage to increase pedestrian safety.

Furthermore, WalkSafe conducts research to assess the effectiveness of their interventions and identify areas for improvement. By collecting data and evaluating the impact of the program, WalkSafe aims to continuously enhance pedestrian safety initiatives and promote evidence-based practices.

As part of the evidence-based 3-day curriculum, the program concludes with an art component where students are asked to encapsulate their learning from the curriculum and artistically express their knowledge. This year's theme asked students to submit an art piece that demonstrates safe and complete streets within their communities and increases safety for people walking. Not only did the program receive drawings and paintings as submissions, but students evolved their submissions to now consist of 3-D models.

This year's WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners are:

For K-1st

School: Frank C. Martin K-8 Center

**Student: *Sariyah Mortimore (1st Grade)***

Principal: Elianys Basulto

Art Teacher: Yaisel Chirino-Gomez

For 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>

School: Carrie P. Meek / Westview K-8 Center

**Student: *Jasmine Quilteravila (3rd Grade)***

Principal: Dr. Tommy Richardson

Art Teacher: Odalys Rodriguez

For 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>

School: Hialeah Elementary

**Student: *Sophia Echenique (4th Grade)***

Principal: Rosa B. Iglesias

Art Teacher: Ray Jui

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is honored to recognize the WalkSafe Program at the KIDZ Neuroscience Center, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, including the 2025 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR**

**MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:** The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-021 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the WalkSafe Program at the KIDZ Neuroscience Center, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, including the 2025 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-021 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING THE WALKSAFE PROGRAM AT THE KIDZ NEUROSCIENCE CENTER, MIAMI  
PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,  
INCLUDING THE 2025 WALKSAFE STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

**WHEREAS**, the WalkSafe Program, under the KIDZ Neuroscience Center, at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was developed to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level;

**WHEREAS**, the program has reached over 69,672 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students this year and within the county the program has reached 1,201 adults and an additional 3,760 children, for a total of over 73,000 children;

**WHEREAS**, WalkSafe collaborates with schools, local organizations, and law enforcement agencies to improve infrastructure and implement safety measures near schools;

**WHEREAS**, WalkSafe conducts research to assess the effectiveness of their interventions and identify areas for improvement. WalkSafe aims to continuously enhance pedestrian safety initiatives and promote evidence-based practices;

**WHEREAS**, as part of the evidence-based 3-day curriculum, the program concludes with an art component where students are asked to encapsulate their learning from the curriculum and artistically express their knowledge. This year's theme asked students to submit an art piece that demonstrates safe and complete streets within their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners are:

- For K-1st  
School: Frank C. Martin K-8 Center  
**Student: *Sariyah Mortimore (1st Grade)***
- For 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
School: Carrie P. Meek / Westview K-8 Center  
**Student: *Jasmine Quilteravila (3rd Grade)***
- For 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>  
School: Hialeah Elementary  
**Student: *Sophia Echenique (4th Grade)***

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution NO. 25-021 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the WalkSafe Program at the KIDZ Neuroscience Center, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, including the 2025 M-DCPS WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest Winners.

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

**Presented this fourteenth day of May, A. D. 2025**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary