

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZES VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM WEEK 2025**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY

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

Throughout history, millions of individuals have endured persecution, oppression, and loss under communist regimes around the world. These governments, in their pursuit of absolute control, have consistently denied fundamental human rights—freedom of speech, religion, and the press—while subjecting citizens to political violence, imprisonment, and economic deprivation. The accounts of those who suffered and perished under these regimes underscore the enduring importance of protecting democracy, individual liberty, and human dignity.

In recognition of this history, the State of Florida has established *Victims of Communism Day* as a day of remembrance to honor the countless lives lost and the millions more impacted by communist rule. First recognized in 2022, when Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 395 into law, the observance requires that instruction on the history and legacy of communism be provided in Florida schools, ensuring that students learn about the victims of these totalitarian systems and the ideologies that fueled widespread repression.

On May 18, 2022, then-Board Member Maria Teresa Rojas sponsored and the Board unanimously approved Agenda Item H-3, formally endorsing and supporting the implementation of HB 395 and adding *Victims of Communism Day* to the District's list of recognized historical remembrance days. This observance also aligns with the work of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, established by an Act of Congress in 1993, which continues to lead national remembrance efforts and educational initiatives.

This Board item seeks approval to recognize, the week following Victims of Communism Day, November 10-14, 2025, as *Victims of Communism Week* in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, in accordance with School Board policies and state and federal law. During this week, educators are encouraged to provide lessons, discussions, and age-appropriate activities, where aligned with curriculum standards, to honor the memory of the victims of communism and to reinforce the vital importance of safeguarding freedom and democratic principles for future generations.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. DANNY ESPINO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize November 10-14, 2025, as Victims of Communism Week and requests that the Superintendent encourage teachers, where it is aligned with the curriculum standards, to engage students in meaningful discussions, lessons, and activities to honor the memory of those who suffered under communist regimes and reinforce the importance of safeguarding democratic principles.