

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

Co-Sponsors:	Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair Mr. Roberto J. Alonso Ms. Mary Blanco Mr. Danny Espino Ms. Luisa Santos	}	A D D E D
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SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENDORSE NOVEMBER 17 THROUGH 23, 2025, AS HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

The week of November 17 - 23, 2025, is designated as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, an observance held each year before Thanksgiving. The face of homelessness is evolving, and tragically, many of those affected are children. It must be our collective goal to provide them with meaningful assistance and raise awareness about the challenges they and their families face.

According to the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust’s Point-in-Time Census Report from January 23, 2025, there were 858 people counted living unsheltered in our community and another 2,757 people sleeping in shelters. Currently, our school district’s Project UPSTART program serves the needs of approximately 5,000 students experiencing homelessness who are enrolled in our schools. These children are often living in emergency or transitional shelters, motels, or hotels.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools prides itself on the work we do and the partnerships we forge to ensure that no child in our county goes hungry. By raising year-long awareness about hunger and homelessness, we hope to foster a culture built on compassion and empathy. We want to let vulnerable children know that despite their circumstances, there is an informed and caring community ready to support them.

Together, we can make a difference and bring much-needed attention to this issue. Miami-Dade County Public Schools will continue to advocate for our children and families in need and remind them that they are not forgotten.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That the school board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the week of November 17 through 23, 2025, as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).