

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-047 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDUCATION FUND FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The Education Fund celebrates 40 years as a partnership between the private sector and the School Board of Miami Dade County, which endorsed the formation of The Education Fund in February of 1985. Both the private sector and the School Board saw the need for an organization that could maneuver easily and work closely with teachers, administrators, and community and business leaders. The goal was, and still is today, to help the district, its schools, and educators ensure public school students succeed.

The Education Fund's 40 years of service is filled with innovation, information, investment, and cooperative programming that allows the district and the private sector to pilot initiatives to help schools, educators and ultimately the students. It has transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of students, and it continues strongly today.

Beginning with a single program that awarded small grants to teachers, today *The Education Fund* operates multiple programs that reach more than 310,000 public school students and 20,000+ educators in 470+ schools in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and has raised and invested more than \$90 Million into Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The Education Fund launched -- in partnership with M-DCPS, College Football Playoff Foundation, and the 2026 Orange Bowl Host Committee -- *Miami Loves Teachers*. This comprehensive initiative is designed to champion educators with a mission to make Miami THE BEST place to be a teacher. With a website platform that provides opportunities to celebrate and reward teachers, with the platform garnering more than 6,000 educator sign-ups in just the first month, Miami Loves Teachers is actively engaging in enterprises to recognize teachers throughout M-DCPS. Miami Loves Teachers is benefiting everyone.

Among *The Education Fund's* many other current efforts is *The Education Fund* Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, a program that distributes donated classroom supplies to teachers who shop for free at a main 11,000 SQ FT warehouse store in Medley and at two Satellite stores, one at the New Teacher Center and the second one at the Hammocks PD Center. Through this program, The Education Fund ensures teachers and students have access to additional supplies they need, with more than \$29 million in supplies distributed to date, benefiting more than 4 million public school students.

The Education Fund program, *Food Forests for Schools*, is a first-in-the-nation initiative, implemented together with M-DCPS' Department of Food & Nutrition, Division of Academics, Department of Student Services & Department of Sustainability, to install Food Forests and

edible gardens on school property as outdoor eco-labs for student learning. Now reaching more than 43,000 public elementary school students annually in 81 M-DCPS, this nationally recognized program promotes healthy eating habits, improves STEM achievement and nutrition literacy, and teaches students resiliency and to appreciate the environment.

The Education Fund, in partnership with M-DCPS' Division of Academics and the Office of Professional Learning, also shares best curriculum practices by distributing the *Ideas with IMPACT* catalog annually to all district teachers, operating the Idea EXPO -- The Teacher Conference, annually attended by hundreds of teachers on their day off; and supporting teacher growth, such as using podcasting to teach about the Everglades, via various webinars, with thousands of teachers registering to learn innovative education techniques, and providing, to date, more than 5,500 classroom grants to teachers, totaling more than \$3.1 million.

The Education Fund, in collaboration with M-DCPS' Department of Visual and Performing Arts, hosts art workshops for teachers and an annual student art exhibition and a charity auction to encourage student artists, already raising more than \$1.1 million to support district visual arts programs and recognizing more than 228,000 public school students for their artwork. The Education Fund also recognizes public school alumni who've contributed to the economic vibrancy of Miami-Dade, showing all that can be achieved with a public school education.

The Education Fund coordinates The Education Fund Teach-A-Thon, an annual teaching-quality awareness campaign, engaging business professionals from hundreds of local companies to teach for a day, and to-date, has placed more than 3,000 professionals in Miami-Dade County Public Schools classrooms, providing lessons including STEM and financial literacy to more than 84,000 public school students and raising funds for classroom projects.

The Education Fund, in partnership with M-DCPS' Department of Career & Technical Education, hosts the Taste of Education, providing hundreds of public school students at 25+ middle and high schools each year with culinary career experiences of a lifetime. In addition to providing culinary grants and training, The Education Fund Taste of Education is where students meet with local celebrity chefs who judge their cuisine and give feedback and advice during a daytime event and then learn additional skills as they serve and explain their dishes to more than 500 members of the business community in the evening to compete for the People's Choice Awards.

The Education Fund, in association with M-DCPS' Department of Student Services, supports a national demonstration project to integrate college-prep and career readiness into M-DCPS high schools. Today the work continues through The Education Fund's SmartPath program, with more than 8,000 public school students participating annually in College & Career Clubs, Counseling, FAFSA Workshops, Classroom Lessons, and College Field Trips.

The Education Fund's history of programming also includes creating both the district's first-ever parent resource centers and the district's first tri-lingual parent guides, distributed to more than 1.2 million families.

The Education Fund clearly demonstrates through its past work and its significant continuing efforts that it is an integral part of supporting and improving our public schools in Miami-Dade County to ensure all children have an opportunity to reach their full potential and succeed.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-047 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the celebration of the 40th anniversary of *The Education Fund* for their outstanding commitment, dedication, and continuous support to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-047 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING *THE EDUCATION FUND* FOR FORTY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING
COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, AND CONTINUOUS SUPPORT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, *The Education Fund* celebrates 40 years as a partnership between the private sector and the School Board of Miami Dade County, which endorsed the formation of The Education Fund in February of 1985. Beginning with a single program that awarded small grants to teachers, today The Education Fund operates multiple programs reaching more than 310,000 public school students and 20,000+ educators in 470+ schools and has raised and invested more than \$90 Million into Miami-Dade County Public Schools;

WHEREAS, *The Education Fund* has launched a number of initiatives in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, including *Miami Loves Teachers*, designed to champion educators in M-DCPS; The Education Fund Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, a program that distributes donated classroom and household supplies to teachers who shop for free; the *Food Forests for Schools*, a first-in-the-nation initiative, installed Food Forests and edible gardens on school property as outdoor eco-labs for student learning; has hosted art workshops for teachers and an annual student art exhibition to encourage student artists, already raising more than \$1.1 million to support district visual arts programs and recognizing more than 228,000 public school students for their artwork;

WHEREAS, *The Education Fund* coordinates The Education Fund Teach-A-Thon, an annual teaching-quality awareness campaign engaging business professionals from hundreds of local companies to teach for a day, and also hosts the Taste of Education, providing hundreds of public school students with culinary career experiences of a lifetime;

WHEREAS, *The Education Fund* created both the district's first-ever parent resource centers and the district's first tri-lingual parent guides, distributed to more than 1.2 million families; and

WHEREAS, *The Education Fund* clearly demonstrates through its past work and its significant continuing efforts that it is an integral part of supporting and improving public schools in Miami-Dade County

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 25-047 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the celebration of the 40th anniversary of *The Education Fund* for their outstanding commitment, dedication, and continuous support to Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

Presented this nineteenth day of November, A.D. 2025

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary