

Mr. Joseph S. Geller, Board Member

SUBJECT: ENDORSING ANNUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE FLORIDA PTA STUDENT HILL DAY

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Public education has always served as the cornerstone of civic understanding and engagement. Through civics instruction, students learn the principles of democracy, the structure of government, and their rights and responsibilities as citizens. However, the most lasting lessons often come when those concepts move beyond the classroom and into lived experience.

After several years without a formal statewide student advocacy experience, Florida PTA is reinstating Student Hill Day, a statewide initiative designed to empower students to participate directly in the legislative process. This event provides middle and high school students with the opportunity to travel to Tallahassee, meet with lawmakers, and share firsthand perspectives on their education and community concerns.

Florida PTA Student Hill Day is more than a field trip. It is a hands-on civics lesson that deepens student understanding of government in action. Students will observe legislative sessions, participate in policy discussions, and learn about the impact of advocacy in shaping the future of public education. For many, it is their first chance to see democracy in motion and to recognize their potential role within it.

The 2026 Student Hill Day is scheduled to align with the Florida PTA Legislative Conference and has been carefully planned to avoid conflicts with spring break and major testing periods to maximize participation and access. The program reinforces Florida's civics education standards and complements school-based initiatives such as Student Government, Model Legislature, and We the People.

This agenda item seeks formal endorsement of Florida PTA Student Hill Day and to encourage student participation, where appropriate, in this statewide civic learning opportunity that connects classroom instruction to real-world advocacy and elevates student voices in public education.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. JOSEPH S. GELLER:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorses Florida PTA Student Hill Day and encourages student participation, where appropriate, in this statewide civic learning opportunity that connects classroom instruction to real-world advocacy and elevates student voices in public education.