

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

Co-Sponsors:	Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair Mr. Roberto Alonso Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall Ms. Mary Blanco Mr. Daniel Espino	REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
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**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-017 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN DISTRICT 9 SCHOOLS**

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

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

The ecological health of South Florida is central to the long-term resilience and prosperity of our community, demanding both thoughtful stewardship and forward-looking strategies. Across District 9, the following schools have emerged as exemplary leaders in environmental education, integrating sustainability into academic programs while fostering a culture of student- and teacher-led environmental responsibility on their campuses.

**BioTECH @ Richmond Heights Senior High School** offers a premier, research-driven learning environment where students excel in zoology, botany, and ecology, and learn by doing at their campuses located at Zoo Miami and Fairchild Tropical Gardens. The school has earned regional recognition, including a 1st Place finish in the 2026 Dreaming in Green Net Zero School Design Challenge, while also contributing to local conservation through initiatives such as burrowing owl monitoring and Pine Rockland habitat restoration—efforts that actively support South Florida’s unique biodiversity.

**Cutler Bay Senior High School** empowers students through its COAST Academy by combining a rigorous Cambridge AICE marine curriculum with student-led scientific research to protect and preserve ocean ecosystems, while fostering scientific literacy and global citizenship through initiatives such as shark tagging and coastal cleanups, and sustainability efforts led by its Environmental Club, including maintaining a campus garden, installing bat houses, and hosting “thrift-exchange” programs to reduce fashion waste.

**Cutler Bay Middle School**, through its COAST program and partnership with the Deering Estate N.E.S.T.T. program, immerses students in real-world marine science experiences. Through hands-on fieldwork, including shark tagging, coastal assessments, and ecosystem monitoring, students gain practical skills while developing a deep understanding of ocean conservation and environmental stewardship.

**Pinecrest Elementary School** is one of nine participants in the M-DCPS composting pilot program. The staff has secured numerous “Garden Grants” to support campus initiatives, such as the installation of hydroponics systems. This dedication has been recognized with the prestigious 2024–2025 Green Schools Recognition Program (GSRP) Category Award for Community Involvement, reflecting a strong culture of collaboration and environmental awareness.

**REVISED REPLACEMENT  
B-3**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proudly recognizes BioTECH @ Richmond Heights Senior High School, Cutler Bay Senior High School, Cutler Bay Middle School, and Pinecrest Elementary School for their outstanding leadership in environmental education and their meaningful contributions to building a more sustainable future for South Florida.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-017 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing sustainability initiatives.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-017  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN DISTRICT 9 SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the ecological health of South Florida is central to the long-term resilience and prosperity of our community, demanding both thoughtful stewardship and forward-looking strategies. Across District 9, the following schools have emerged as exemplary leaders in environmental education, integrating sustainability into academic programs while fostering a culture of student- and teacher-led environmental responsibility on their campuses; and

**WHEREAS, BioTECH @ Richmond Heights Senior High School** offers a premier, research-driven learning environment where students excel in zoology, botany, and ecology, and learn by doing at their campuses located at Zoo Miami and Fairchild Tropical Gardens. The school has earned regional recognition, including a 1st Place finish in the 2026 Dreaming in Green Net Zero School Design Challenge, while also contributing to local conservation through initiatives such as burrowing owl monitoring and Pine Rockland habitat restoration—efforts that actively support South Florida’s unique biodiversity; and

**WHEREAS, Cutler Bay Senior High School** empowers students through its COAST Academy by combining a rigorous Cambridge AICE marine curriculum with student-led scientific research to preserve ocean ecosystems, while fostering scientific literacy and global citizenship through initiatives such as shark tagging and coastal cleanups, and sustainability efforts led by its Environmental Club, including maintaining a campus garden, installing bat houses, and hosting “thrift-exchange” programs to reduce fashion waste; and

**WHEREAS, Cutler Bay Middle School**, through its COAST program and partnership with the Deering Estate N.E.S.T.T. program, immerses students in real-world marine science experiences. Through hands-on fieldwork, including shark tagging, coastal assessments, and ecosystem monitoring, students gain practical skills while developing a deep understanding of ocean conservation and environmental stewardship; and

**WHEREAS, Pinecrest Elementary School** is one of nine participants in the M-DCPS composting pilot program. The staff has secured numerous “Garden Grants” to support campus initiatives, such as the installation of hydroponics systems. This dedication has been recognized with the prestigious 2024–2025 Green Schools Recognition Program (GSRP) Category Award for Community Involvement, reflecting a strong culture of collaboration and environmental awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, proudly recognizes BioTECH @ Richmond Heights Senior High School, Cutler Bay Senior High School, Cutler Bay Middle School, and Pinecrest Elementary School for their outstanding leadership in environmental education and their meaningful contributions to building a more sustainable future for South Florida;

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-017 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing environmental stewardship in District 9 schools.

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

**Presented this twenty-second day of April, A.D. 2026**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary