

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

CO-SPONSORS: Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Danny Espino
Dr. Steve Gallon III
Mr. Joseph S. Geller
Ms. Luisa Santos } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MAY 1, 2026, AS *SCHOOL LUNCHHERO DAY* IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

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

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: **HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS, & STAFF**

School Lunch Hero Day is celebrated annually on the first Friday in the month of May. It is a day of celebration to show our appreciation to the professionals who help make meals for America's students. *School Lunch Hero Day* was created by a partnership between the School Nutrition Association and children's author Jarret Krosoczka, the writer of several picture books including the "Lunch Lady" series.

School lunch programs play a critical role in supporting students' academic achievement. Research consistently shows that students who have reliable access to nutritious meals at breakfast and lunch are better positioned to succeed in the classroom. Beyond benefiting individual students, school meal programs contribute positively to the broader community by promoting health, equity, and overall well-being. Access to quality school meals is an investment in both student success and community strength.

Our food and nutrition services professionals exemplify dedication and excellence. This team includes the specialists and managers who develop and implement rigorous nutritional standards, as well as the committed cafeteria staff who ensure that every student is served each day. At M-DCPS, cafeteria employees begin their work before dawn, preparing breakfast to ensure students start their day nourished and ready to learn. Their tireless efforts make a meaningful difference, and this day of recognition serves to honor their commitment and express the appreciation they so richly deserve.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools salute and honor the Department of Food and Nutrition, and the over 2,600 M-DCPS school lunch heroes, as we celebrate May 1, 2026, *School Lunch Hero Day*.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse May 1, 2026, as *School Lunch Hero Day* in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Revised²
H-3