

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 TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026, AS NATIONAL TEACHER DAY AND MAY 4-8, 2026, AS TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

In the 1940s, an Arkansas teacher named Mattye Whyte Woodridge developed the idea of a national day to honor teachers and began communicating with education and political leaders to bring this idea to fruition. Ultimately, Woodridge contacted First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt who persuaded Congress to declare a National Teacher Day in 1953.

The National Education Association (NEA), in partnership with its local and state affiliates, lobbied Congress to establish a nationally recognized day to celebrate teachers. Congress responded by declaring March 7, 1980, as *National Teacher Day* for that year only. For the next four years, the NEA continued celebrating *National Teacher Day* in March, until it was eventually changed to the first Tuesday of the first full week of the month of May.

Outstanding teachers are the foundation of strong public schools. On National Teacher Day, observed on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, communities across the country pause to recognize their dedicated educators and to acknowledge the vital role they play in ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education.

National Teacher Day, celebrated on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4–8, 2026), provides an important opportunity to highlight for the Miami-Dade County community the significant contributions teachers make to the lives of all students. It also serves as a meaningful occasion for school boards, administrators, community members, and students to formally express their gratitude to those who positively influence children throughout their educational journey.

Regardless of where we are in life, each of us has been influenced by a teacher. Their impact does not end when we leave the classroom; it continues to shape our character, decisions, and achievements every day. When we encounter new employees who demonstrate exceptional skills and abilities, whether they begin their careers in the public or private sector, we can be confident that a dedicated teacher played a role in developing their potential. Every business owner, physician, engineer, teacher, architect, accountant, or nurse can identify an educator who inspired and guided them. Indeed, each of us can recall at least one teacher who offered encouragement, instilled confidence, and motivated us to strive for excellence throughout our educational journey.

Teachers do far more than deliver academic content; they cultivate critical thinking, resilience, and a lifelong love of learning. Their influence extends beyond textbooks and examinations, helping to shape responsible citizens and future leaders. The success of our communities and institutions is, in many ways, a lasting testament to their commitment and dedication.

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, approve the endorsement of May 5, 2026, as *National Teacher Day* and May 4-8, 2026, as *Teacher Appreciation Week* in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.