

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

**SUBJECT:** **SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE MONTH OF MAY 2026 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH AND THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026, AS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)**

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

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

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the month of May in the United States since 1949, reaching millions of Americans through the media, local events, screenings, community agencies, local hospitals, schools, and institutions of higher learning. The concept was started in the United States by the National Association for Mental Health, and this year's theme is *Stigma Grows in Silence. Healing Begins in Community*. Each year, millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition, and everyone is affected or impacted by mental illness through friends and family. Together, we can realize our shared vision of a nation where everyone affected by mental health illness can get the appropriate support and quality of care to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Additionally, the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, first sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), will be held on May 7, 2026, and it seeks to increase consciousness about the importance of children's mental health and to show that positive mental health is vital to a child's healthy development. Children are the most precious thing in the world. Children with serious mental illness and severe emotional disturbance need full-time care and treatment. This is a day that shines on the national spotlight to guarantee the importance of caring for every child's mental health and to reinforce that positive mental health is crucial to a child's development.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools joins the mental health community to reaffirm our commitment to building our understanding of mental illness and ensuring those who are struggling to know that they are not alone.

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 the month of May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month and May 7, 2026, as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

**Revised<sup>2</sup>**  
**H-5**