

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-027 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE WALKSAFE PROGRAM AT THE KIDZ NEUROSCIENCE CENTER, MIAMI PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, INCLUDING THE 2026 WALKSAFE STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The WalkSafe Program, under the KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was developed to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level. The program involves a combination of educational initiatives, community outreach, and research efforts to educate children on pedestrian safety rules, safe crossing techniques, and the importance of being alert, predictable, and visible while walking. The program has served the Miami-Dade County community since 2001 when a task force of community educators and partners reviewed historical pediatric injury data from Jackson Memorial Medical Center and the Ryder Trauma Center in an attempt to locate the cause of these injuries. The majority of these incidents involved children between the ages of five and 13 years of age, taking place mainly in the vicinity of elementary schools.

WalkSafe incorporates interactive presentations, hands-on activities, and engaging materials to teach children about pedestrian safety in an age-appropriate manner. It is estimated that the program has reached over 73,000 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students and over 1,200 adults this school year.

In addition to education, WalkSafe collaborates with schools, local organizations, and law enforcement agencies to improve infrastructure and implement safety measures near schools. This includes initiatives such as enhanced crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and improved signage to increase pedestrian safety.

Furthermore, WalkSafe conducts research to assess the effectiveness of their interventions and identify areas for improvement. By collecting data and evaluating the impact of the program, WalkSafe aims to continuously enhance pedestrian safety initiatives and promote evidence-based practices.

This year's WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners are:

For K-1st

School: Frank C. Martin K-8 Center

Student: Zhuri White (1st Grade)

Principal: Elianys Basulto

Art Teacher: Yaisel Chirino-Gomez

For 2nd - 3rd

School: Hialeah Elementary

Student: Sofia Diaz (3rd Grade)

Principal: Rosa B. Iglesias

Art Teacher: Ray Jui

For 4th - 5th

School: Southside Elementary

Student: Angelica Steinmyller

Principal: Linette Tellez

Art Teacher: Emily Sones

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, is honored to recognize the WalkSafe Program at the KIDZ Neuroscience Center, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, including the 2026 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-027 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the WalkSafe Program at the KIDZ Neuroscience Center, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, including the 2026 WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-027 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE WALKSAFE PROGRAM AT THE KIDZ NEUROSCIENCE CENTER, MIAMI
PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,
INCLUDING THE 2026 WALKSAFE STATEWIDE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS**

WHEREAS, the WalkSafe Program, under the KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, was developed to improve pedestrian safety and health for elementary school children on a statewide level;

WHEREAS, The program has served the Miami-Dade County community since 2001 when a task force of community educators and partners reviewed historical pediatric injury data from Jackson Memorial Medical Center and the Ryder Trauma Center in an attempt to locate the cause of these injuries;

WHEREAS, WalkSafe incorporates interactive presentations, hands-on activities, and engaging materials to teach children about pedestrian safety in an age-appropriate manner. It is estimated that the program has reached over 73,000 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students and over 1,200 adults this school year;

WHEREAS, WalkSafe collaborates with schools, local organizations, and law enforcement agencies to improve infrastructure and implement safety measures near schools. This includes initiatives such as enhanced crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and improved signage to increase pedestrian safety;

WHEREAS, WalkSafe conducts research to assess the effectiveness of their interventions and identify areas for improvement. By collecting data and evaluating the impact of the program; and

WHEREAS, this year's WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest winners are:

For K-1st

School: Frank C. Martin K-8 Center

Student: Zhuri White (1st Grade)

For 2nd - 3rd

School: Hialeah Elementary

Student: Sofia Diaz (3rd Grade)

For 4th - 5th

School: Southside Elementary

Student: Angelica Steinmyller

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution NO. 26-027 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the WalkSafe Program at the KIDZ Neuroscience Center, Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, including the 2026 M-DCPS WalkSafe Statewide Poster Contest Winners.

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

Presented this thirteenth day of May, A. D. 2026

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary