

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 26-025 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP SIGNING AND COLLEGE AND CAREER DECISION DAY

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

In 2010, the State of Florida enacted legislation declaring ‘Academic Scholarship Signing Day’ on the third Tuesday of April each year. Florida Statutes Section 1001.43(14) encourages school districts to recognize the importance of motivating students to attain academic achievement and to bestow comparable recognition for both its scholars and student athletes.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, codified this celebration as part of its School Board Policy 5451, Student Recognition, which established procedures for schools to conduct these activities on or after the third Tuesday in April annually.

The policy was later updated to include a ‘College and Career Decision Day’ which recognizes high school seniors for their postsecondary education plans, encourages early preparation for college, and supports students as they pursue advanced career pathways through industry certifications.

School administrators, College Assistance Program (CAP) advisors, and guidance counselors are uniquely positioned to effectively establish and nurture a college-going culture and guide students towards college and post-secondary readiness. With the steadfast support of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Division of Student Services, staff provide students assistance in planning, preparing, and participating in academic, career, and technical programming that connects to their college and career aspirations.

As part of the 2026 updates to the “Framework for Post-Secondary Success,” the Division of Student Services continues to train and support school-site CAP Advisors, ensuring they are well prepared to deliver high-quality guidance and effectively assist students in developing and implementing postsecondary plans aligned with their career goals.

A significant milestone in these efforts is the district’s steady increase in FAFSA completion rates, which now leads all districts in the state. The Class of 2025 reached a 65% completion rate (as of August 2025). The district is presently ranked first in the Florida College Access Network’s FAFSA Challenge, with the Class of 2026 reaching a 52.9% completion rate.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, celebrates all students and their pathways to post-secondary education and acknowledges the support network within the school community that provides students and families clear guidance, strong support, and vital information and resources to help them reach their educational goals.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-025 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing 2026 Academic Scholarship Signing and College and Career Decision Day.

**REPLACEMENT
B-3**

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-025 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP SIGNING AND
COLLEGE AND CAREER DECISION DAY**

WHEREAS, in 2010, the State of Florida enacted legislation declaring ‘Academic Scholarship Signing Day’ on the third Tuesday of April each year. Florida Statutes Section 1001.43(14) encourages school districts to recognize the importance of motivating students to attain academic achievement and to bestow comparable recognition for both its scholars and student athletes; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, codified this celebration as part of its School Board Policy 5451, Student Recognition, which established procedures for schools to conduct these activities on or after the third Tuesday in April annually; and

WHEREAS, the policy was later updated to include a ‘College and Career Decision Day’ which recognizes high school seniors for their postsecondary education plans, encourages early preparation for college, and supports students as they pursue advanced career pathways through industry certifications; and

WHEREAS, School administrators, College Assistance Program (CAP) advisors, and guidance counselors are uniquely positioned to effectively establish and nurture a college-going culture and guide students towards college and post-secondary readiness. With the steadfast support of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Division of Student Services, staff provide students assistance in planning, preparing, and participating in academic, career, and technical programming that connects to their college and career aspirations; and

WHEREAS, as part of the 2026 updates to the “Framework for Post-Secondary Success,” the Division of Student Services continues to train and support school-site CAP Advisors, ensuring they are well prepared to deliver high-quality guidance and effectively assist students in developing and implementing postsecondary plans aligned with their career goals; and

WHEREAS, a significant milestone in these efforts is the district’s steady increase in FAFSA completion rates, which now leads all districts in the state. The Class of 2025 reached a 65% completion rate (as of August 2025). The district is presently ranked first in the Florida College Access Network’s FAFSA Challenge, with the Class of 2026 reaching a 52.9% completion rate; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, celebrates all students and their pathways to post-secondary education and acknowledges the support network within the school community that provides students and families clear guidance, strong support, and vital information and resources to help them reach their educational goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 26-025 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing 2026 Academic Scholarship Signing and College and Career Decision Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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