

Ms. Mary Blanco, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
 Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
 Mr. Roberto Alonso
 Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
 Mr. Danny Espino
 Mr. Joseph S. Geller } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

**SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECOGNIZE AND OBSERVE SEPTEMBER 2026 AS CHILDHOOD
CANCER AWARENESS MONTH AT ALL MIAMI DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

The month of September is nationally recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about pediatric cancer, honoring the courage of children and families affected, and supporting efforts for research, treatment, and care.

Childhood cancer is the leading cause of disease-related death in children in the United States. Approximately 15,000 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer in the US. About 1 in 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20. The most common childhood cancers include leukemias, brain and central nervous system tumors, and lymphomas. Despite progress in treatments, 1 in 5 children diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. do not survive, and many survivors experience long-term physical, cognitive, and emotional effects.

Every year during the month of September, community organizations throughout Miami-Dade County, such as Live Like Bella, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, The Children's Cancer Fund, Sofia's Hope, and the Sebastian Strong Foundation come together to fight and spread awareness of childhood cancer. Childhood Cancer Month provides the opportunity to spotlight the need for research funding and strong support systems for families navigating this horrible disease.

This board item requests that the Superintendent of Schools, in collaboration with the Office of Community Engagement, partner with local organizations such as, but not limited to, Live Like Bella, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, The Children's Cancer Fund, Sofia's Hope, and Sebastian Strong Foundation to raise awareness of Childhood Cancer.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARY BLANCO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, requests that the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. Recognize September 2026 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in all Miami Dade County Public Schools;
2. Authorize the Superintendent of Schools, in collaboration with the Office of Community Partnerships, Education and Business Access to engage with local organizations or entities with a mission to spread awareness of childhood cancer, such as but not limited to, Live Like Bella, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, The Children's Cancer Fund, Sofia's Hope, and Sebastian Strong Foundation, to raise awareness of childhood cancer and support and honor these children and their families; and
3. Direct the Superintendent of Schools to provide a report to the Board on the number of participating schools and manner in which community partners were involved by the October 7, 2026, Academics, Innovation, Evaluation and Technology Committee Meeting.