

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2026, THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2026

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

Every year, Americans across the nation observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th as a way of recognizing the many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our history. During the month-long observance, Americans celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose forefathers came from Spain, Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

The observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week and later was expanded in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. The date of September 15th was chosen as the starting date for the observance because it is the anniversary of the independence of five Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their respective days of independence in the month of September.

The theme for National Hispanic Heritage Month in 2026 is **"Unidos Somos Más" (Together, We Are More)**. This theme celebrates the resilience, collective impact, and unity of Hispanic and Latino communities in the United States.

There are nearly 68 million people of Hispanic origin in the United States, making Hispanics the nation's largest ethnic minority. Hispanics constitute about 20 percent of the nation's total population. According to the United States (U.S.) Census, the projected Hispanic population in the U. S. in 2060 will be approximately 111 million. In Miami-Dade County Public Schools, 76.0% of the student population is of Hispanic descent (*M-DCPS Statistical Highlights 2025-2026*.)

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 Hispanic Heritage Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools from September 15, 2026, through October 15, 2026.