

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
Mr. Joseph S. Geller } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT AND CELEBRATION OF OCTOBER 2026 AS NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS, & STAFF

School principals are among the most influential and hardworking leaders in education. They establish the academic culture of their schools, inspire excellence, and drive continuous improvement. Through their vision, leadership, commitment, and unwavering determination, principals create the momentum that transforms schools and advances student achievement. Their ability to unite educators, students, families, and communities around a shared vision is the foundation of lasting school success and meaningful educational reform.

Today's principals are expected to fulfill an extraordinary range of responsibilities. They serve as instructional leaders, data and assessment experts, disciplinarians, community advocates, public relations representatives, financial stewards, facility managers, supervisors of specialized programs, and guardians of legal, contractual, and policy compliance. They must balance strategic leadership with daily operational demands while responding to the evolving needs of students, staff, and families.

Above all, principals are entrusted with one of society's greatest responsibilities: shaping the education, character, and future of our nation's children—our most valuable resource. Their leadership not only influences the success of individual schools but also strengthens communities and helps prepare the next generation to thrive.

October is designated annually as National Principals Month to recognize the essential role that principals play in school achievement and student success. A nationwide celebration of the principalship, National Principals Month, is an initiative of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA). However, the most important National Principals Month celebrations are the ones that will take place in schools and communities across Miami-Dade County.

This item seeks the School Board's endorsement and celebration of the month of October 2026 as National Principals Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). The manner of celebrations will vary, but organizations, community groups, the PTA/PTSA, labor unions, the Dade Association of School Administrators (DASA), School Board Members, elected officials,

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the Superintendent, the administration, the media, and our students should be encouraged to celebrate the outstanding work and commitment of our school principals.

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 and celebrate October 2026 as National Principals Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.