

Mr. Daniel Espino, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Joseph S. Geller

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**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECOGNIZES AMERICA'S FOUNDERS' MONTH AND SEPTEMBER
CIVIC OBSERVANCES**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY

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

Public education plays a vital role in preparing students to become informed, responsible, and engaged citizens. An understanding of our nation's founding principles, constitutional framework, and democratic institutions provides students with the historical knowledge necessary to appreciate the rights and responsibilities of citizenship while encouraging thoughtful civic participation.

The Florida Legislature has designated September as America's Founders' Month, recognizing the importance of educating students about the ideas, individuals, and documents that shaped the founding of the United States. Throughout the month, students have opportunities to explore the nation's history through classroom instruction and district-support activities that reinforce the principles of liberty, self-government, civic responsibility, and the rule of law.

Several nationally and state-recognized observances also occur during September, each offering meaningful opportunities for civic education and historical reflection. These include:

- **Labor Day (September 7, 2026)** – honoring the contributions of American workers and the labor movement.
- **Patriot Day (September 11, 2026)** – commemorating the lives lost and the courage demonstrated during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.
- **Constitution Day (September 17, 2026)** – recognizing the signing of the United States Constitution and the enduring framework of our constitutional republic.
- **Celebrate Freedom Week (September 21-25, 2026)** – established by the Florida Legislature to provide instruction on the Declaration of Independence, the founding ideals of the United States, and the responsibilities of American citizenship.

These observances complement the civic education requirements, established in Florida Statute 1003.42, and support Miami-Dade County Public Schools' commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education that promotes civic literacy, historical understanding, and informed participation in our democratic society.

Recognizing America's Founders' Month provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of civic education while encouraging schools to engage students in age-appropriate lessons and activities that deepen their understanding of the nation's founding, the significance of our constitutional system of government, and the shared responsibilities of citizenship. Through

these educational experiences, students gain a stronger appreciation for the principles that have shaped our nation and continue to guide our democracy.

This item seeks the Board's recognition of September 2026 as America's Founders' Month and the observance of Labor Day, Patriot Day, Constitution Day, and Celebrate Freedom Week, while encouraging instruction and educational activities aligned with Florida law, existing curriculum standards, and the District's commitment to preparing informed and engaged citizens.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. DANIEL A. ESPINO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize September 2026 as America's Founders' Month, together with Labor Day (September 7, 2026), Patriot Day (September 11, 2026), Constitution Day (September 17, 2026), and Celebrate Freedom Week (September 21-25, 2026), and direct the Superintendent to encourage schools, consistent with existing curriculum standards and Florida law, to provide age-appropriate instructional activities and educational opportunities that promote civic literacy, historical understanding, constitutional principles, and responsible citizenship.