

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

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**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2026
 AS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
 THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

October is recognized as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an international health campaign dedicated to increasing awareness about breast cancer, promoting education about risk factors and symptoms, encouraging recommended screening, supporting those affected by the disease, and advancing research and treatment.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among women in the United States, other than skin cancer, and it also affects men. According to the most recent 2026 estimates from the American Cancer Society, approximately 321,910 women and 2,670 men in the United States will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer. In addition, approximately 60,730 women will be diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), a non-invasive form of breast cancer. An estimated 42,670 people in the United States are expected to die from breast cancer in 2026.

Breast cancer continues to affect millions of individuals and families. Approximately 1 in 8 women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer during her lifetime, and more than 4 million breast cancer survivors are living in the United States. While breast cancer occurs far less frequently in men, awareness is also important because men can develop the disease.

Since 1993, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (MSABC) has been the American Cancer Society's rallying cry to raise awareness and dollars to fight breast cancer. Through the leadership of Miami-Dade County, MSABC walkers and supporters can be proud that their efforts are helping more than an estimated 4 million breast cancer survivors celebrate another birthday this year.

It is important to raise awareness in our community of breast cancer prevention and to recognize October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools. To help raise awareness about breast cancer outreach efforts will be made throughout the District for teachers and support staff.

This Board item seeks to endorse October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and request that the Superintendent distribute educational information on the subject throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the month of October 2026 in Miami-Dade County Public Schools as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.