

Mr. Daniel Espino, Board Member

CO-SPONSORS: **Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair**
 Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
 Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
 Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
 Ms. Mary Blanco
 Mr. Joseph S. Geller } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION

SUBJECT: **COMMEMORATION OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2023, ATTACKS ON THE
STATE OF ISRAEL AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS**

COMMITTEE: **PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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

On October 7, 2023, the State of Israel suffered a devastating terrorist attack that resulted in the deaths of approximately 1,200 people, with 251 more taken hostage and countless others injured. The attack marked the deadliest day for the Jewish people worldwide since the Holocaust. The events of that day inflicted profound suffering upon families and communities and continue to carry deep significance for Jewish communities, the people of Israel, and individuals around the world.

As we commemorate the anniversary of October 7, the School Board of Miami-Dade County remembers the victims whose lives were taken, honors the survivors and those whose lives were forever changed, and recognizes the enduring grief experienced by families and communities affected by the attacks.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County unequivocally condemns terrorism, antisemitism, and acts of violence directed against innocent civilians. Our schools have an important responsibility to reinforce the fundamental values of human dignity, mutual respect, tolerance, and the peaceful resolution of conflict. Education also plays an essential role in ensuring that students understand the consequences of hatred, extremism, antisemitism, and violence and are equipped to reject them in all their forms.

Miami-Dade County is home to a diverse community whose families have connections to nations and cultures throughout the world. Events of international significance can therefore have a deep personal impact on our students, employees, and families. The District remains committed to maintaining safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environments in which students can process difficult events appropriately while engaging in respectful, informed, and constructive dialogue.

The commemoration of October 7, 2023, also provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of remembering the victims of terrorism and educating future generations about the human consequences of hatred and violence. Through education, remembrance, civil discourse, and mutual respect, our schools can help students become informed and compassionate citizens who value peace and recognize the dignity of every human life.

Revised²
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Accordingly, this item seeks to commemorate the October 7, 2023, attacks on the State of Israel; honor and remember the victims; express solidarity with survivors, families, and communities affected by the attacks; and reaffirm the School Board's commitment to combating antisemitism, terrorism, hatred, and violence while promoting peace, tolerance, mutual respect, and the safety and well-being of all students.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, commemorate October 7, 2026, as a day of remembrance of the October 7, 2023, attacks on the State of Israel, honor the memory of the victims and those impacted by the attacks, and direct the Superintendent to inform all schools and District staff of this commemoration and encourage appropriate educational opportunities that promote remembrance, tolerance, mutual respect, and the rejection of antisemitism, terrorism, hatred, and violence, in accordance with applicable School Board policies and State and Federal law.