

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

CO-SPONSORS: Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Danny Espino
Mr. Joseph S. Geller

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF “ETHICAL GOVERNANCE DAY 2026” IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) ON OCTOBER 22, 2026, SPONSORED BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (“Ethics Commission”) is an independent governmental agency committed to promoting public confidence in the integrity and accountability of government. Established in 1996, the Ethics Commission advances this mission by educating and informing public officials, employees, and members of the private sector regarding applicable ethics laws and promoting strict compliance with those requirements. The Ethics Commission is vested with advisory and quasi-judicial authority, extending its jurisdiction to the municipalities throughout Miami-Dade County.

The Ethics Commission is committed to public education, training, and community outreach, including educational programs for students. As future voters and community leaders, the Ethics Commission recognizes the critical importance of providing students with the necessary tools to become responsible and ethical citizens. Through its model “Model Student Ethics” program, the Ethics Commission has provided senior high schools students with opportunities to analyze ethical dilemmas and to learn how to make ethical choices and decisions.

In the fall of 2021, the Ethics Commission further expanded its outreach programs for students by sponsoring the first “Ethical Governance Day” at senior high schools in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Building on this success, the Ethics Commission is once again inviting various public agencies, professional associations, and private businesses to participate in the program. On “Ethical Governance Day 2026,” civic and community leaders, elected officials, academic and political professionals, attorneys, and other public servants will serve as guest speakers in American Government classrooms across M-DCPS. “Ethical Governance Day 2026” will take place on October 22, 2026. This year’s theme is “United and Purpose.”

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 “Ethical Governance Day 2026” to take place on October 22, 2026, in Miami-Dade County Public Schools sponsored by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.