

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF *FATHERS IN EDUCATION DAY* THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026; AND *FATHERS IN ACTION AND ADVOCACY WEEK*, SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18, 2026**

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

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

Throughout the years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has partnered with the Fatherhood Task Force of South Florida to enhance its mission to strengthen and cultivate relationships between fathers and their children through *Fathers in Education Day* and *Fathers in Action and Advocacy Week*. A number of initiatives have been instituted to improve educational opportunities for children from Pre-K through high school by promoting fathers' involvement in education both in school and in the home. During this fourteenth-year celebration and collaboration, *Fathers in Education Day* and *Fathers in Action and Advocacy Week* will take place during September to engage fathers and father figures early in the school year and maintain their engagement throughout the year.

Fathers play a significant role in their children's educational development, and their involvement can have a meaningful impact on both academic achievement and personal growth. When fathers actively participate in their children's education—whether by assisting with homework, attending school events, or encouraging learning at home—children often demonstrate greater motivation, more positive behavior in school, and improved academic performance across various subject areas.

Furthermore, a father's presence, guidance, and encouragement can contribute to the development of a child's self-esteem, confidence, and sense of responsibility, thereby fostering a positive attitude toward education and lifelong learning. Such involvement is particularly influential when fathers serve as positive role models by demonstrating a commitment to continuous learning and emphasizing the importance of education in everyday life. Through consistent engagement and support, fathers can help establish a strong foundation for their children's academic success and overall personal development.

M-DCPS Office of Community Partnerships, Education, and Business Access continues to play an essential role in the success of the program. The Parent Academy, under School Leadership and Performance, works with school-site administrators, with Title I district staff, and with the Miami-Dade County PTA/PTSA, to actively involve the entire community in the Fathers in Education program. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and male mentors have been invited to participate in the different activities initiated by this school district. They take time to read to students, share their experiences, stories, hobbies, or other interests with them. *Fathers in Action & Advocacy Week* offers workshops throughout the community regarding father and family engagement and skill building, as well as discussions of advocacy and legislative issues.

Fathers in Education Day and *Fathers in Action and Advocacy Week* are positive initiatives demonstrating that Miami-Dade County Public Schools has taken a leadership role in underscoring the importance of fathers and male role model engagement in all children's lives and in closing the academic achievement gap. Miami-Dade County Public Schools, with the full support of the School Board and the Superintendent, has become the frontrunner county in Florida and serves as a beacon for other school districts, creating a successful partnership with the Fatherhood Task Force of South Florida since 2014.

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, endorses the celebration of the fourteenth anniversary of *Fathers in Education Day*, Thursday, September 17, 2026; and *Fathers in Action and Advocacy Week*, September 14 through September 18, 2026.