

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

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

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

In October 1981, the Day of Unity was created by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence to connect advocates from across the country who were working to end violence against women and their children. In 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness month was celebrated. Two years later, commemorative legislation was enacted by Congress. Subsequently, legislation has been passed every year to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Month has become an important vehicle to promote awareness of domestic abuse and also champion the strength and resilience of battered women and their children.

Though there has been much progress in reducing domestic violence, nearly 3 in 10 women (29%) and 1 in 10 men (10%) in the US have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by a partner. On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States — more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year. Domestic Violence has no regard for socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, religion, employment status, physical ableness, age, education, marital status, or sexual orientation. Domestic violence remains a devastating public health concern that demands significant consideration and resources to address.

In 1995, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence convened several national domestic violence organizations to launch a new initiative to support awareness of domestic violence programs and education efforts for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which became known as the Domestic Violence Awareness Project (DVAP). The DVAP collaborated to collect, develop, and distribute resources and relevant concepts to ongoing public prevention awareness and education efforts throughout the year.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been a proud and strong advocate against domestic violence, and has joined the nation in years past to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month on behalf of those affected by domestic violence and those who are committed to ending the cycle of abuse. The school district has personally taken a stand against domestic violence with the adoption of Policy 5517.03, *Prohibition on Dating Violence and Abuse*, along with other initiatives that seek to educate and protect students from dating violence or abuse on school property, during a school-sponsored event or during school-sponsored transportation.

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 Domestic Violence Awareness Month.