

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ENDORSE OCTOBER AS NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION
AWARENESS MONTH THROUGHOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

October is designated as National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of stopping bullying and cyberbullying in our schools. Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. There are many roles that students take when it pertains to bullying such as bullying other students, being bullied, or witnessing bullying. By promoting awareness of bullying, students are educated on the topic of bullying and can distinguish when bullying is taking place either to them or to other students.

The School District has taken measures through Board Policy 5517.01, *Bullying and Harassment*, to prevent any form of bullying amongst students in the public school system. Establishing a school culture of acceptance, tolerance and respect is key to the prevention of bullying in our schools. Furthermore, it is important that we promote awareness and educate students on this topic through other means such as events, meetings, flyers, and school website. This board item seeks to endorse October as National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and to encourage the inclusion of year-round bullying prevention practices for students, parents and District employees in order to raise awareness and educate about the importance of reporting any form of bullying in our 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 October as National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and encourage the inclusion of year round bullying prevention practices for students, parents and District employees in order to raise awareness and educate about the importance of reporting any form of bullying in our schools.