Office of School Board Members
Board Meeting of October 14, 2026

October 14, 2026

Mr. Daniel Espino, Board Member

CO-SPONSORS: **Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair**
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto 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: **THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZES VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM WEEK 2026**

COMMITTEE: **ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY**

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

Throughout history, millions of individuals have endured persecution, oppression, displacement, and loss under communist regimes around the world. In their pursuit of centralized political control, these regimes have denied fundamental human rights and individual liberties, including freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, and the press, while subjecting populations to political violence, imprisonment, forced migration, economic deprivation, and other forms of repression. Remembering the experiences of those who suffered and perished under these regimes reinforces the enduring importance of protecting freedom, democracy, individual liberty, and human dignity.

In recognition of this history, the State of Florida established November 7 of each year as "Victims of Communism Day." Enacted through House Bill 395 in 2022 and codified in section 683.334, Florida Statutes, the observance honors the millions of people who have fallen victim to communist regimes worldwide and requires instruction for students enrolled in the high school United States Government course on the history and suffering associated with communist regimes. Through this instruction, students have an opportunity to examine historical examples of communism and better understand the consequences experienced by individuals and societies under these systems.

On May 18, 2022, then-School Board Member Maria Teresa Rojas sponsored Agenda Item H-3, which the School Board unanimously approved, formally endorsing and supporting the implementation of House Bill 395 and adding Victims of Communism Day to the District's list of recognized historical remembrance days. The District's observance also complements broader efforts to preserve the testimony and experiences of victims and survivors and to educate future generations about the history and legacy of communist regimes.

In 2025, the School Board further expanded this recognition through Agenda Item H-10, sponsored by School Board Member Danny Espino, recognizing November 10–14, 2025, as Victims of Communism Week. The weeklong observance provided schools, when aligned with curriculum standards, an opportunity to engage students in meaningful lessons, discussions, and age-appropriate educational activities that honor the memory of victims and deepen students' understanding of this history.

Revised[2]
H-6

This year, Victims of Communism Day falls on Saturday, November 7, 2026. Pursuant to section 683.334, Florida Statutes, when November 7 falls on a day that is not a school day, the observance may take place on the preceding school day or on another school day designated by local school authorities. Building upon the School Board's previous recognition and commitment to educating students about this history, this item seeks approval to recognize November 9–13, 2026, as Victims of Communism Week in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, in accordance with School Board policies and state and federal law.

During Victims of Communism Week, educators are encouraged, where aligned with curriculum standards, to provide lessons, discussions, first-hand accounts, and age-appropriate educational activities that honor the memory of those who suffered under communist regimes, preserve the experiences of victims and survivors, and help students understand the importance of safeguarding freedom, democratic principles, individual rights, and human dignity for future generations.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. DANIEL ESPINO:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize November 9-13, 2026, as Victims of Communism Week and request that the Superintendent encourage teachers, where aligned with curriculum standards, to engage students in meaningful discussions, lessons, first-hand accounts, and age-appropriate activities that honor the memory of those who suffered under communist regimes and reinforce the importance of safeguarding freedom, individual rights, and democratic principles.