

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla T. Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member  
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member  
Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

} Added

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MARCH 21, 2018, AS  
WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY (WDSD) IN MIAMI-DADE  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

World Down Syndrome Day was first observed in 2006 in many countries around the world to help raise awareness of what Down syndrome is, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in our lives and in our communities. Each year, the voices of people with Down syndrome, and those who live and work with them continues to grow louder.

On December 18, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21<sup>st</sup> as World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD). The date of WDSD, being the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the third month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome which causes Down syndrome. This global awareness day has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

Relevant organizations of the United Nations systems, other international organizations, as well as civil society, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the world join in observance of World Down Syndrome Day. Miami-Dade county Public Schools joins the world in observance of World Down Syndrome Day.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse March, 21, 2018 as World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.