

Dr. Martin S. Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-035 OF  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
ENDORING APRIL 2010, AS FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING  
MONTH**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL           EXCELLENCE           AND           COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:      STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

In keeping with the State of Florida's endorsement to designate April 2010, as Florida Service-Learning Month, the Superintendent's Service-Learning Advisory Committee requests the School Board's resolution celebrating service-learning programs. The purpose is to raise awareness of service-learning and promote this pedagogy as a powerful tool in strengthening both education and local communities.

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that offers a unique opportunity for students to get involved by using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. Students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, but they are empowered to become active, contributing citizens and community members. Service-learning can be applied across all subject and grade levels. It goes beyond the traditional elements of community service and volunteering by providing structured classroom time for students to plan, act, and demonstrate through activities directly related to curricula and the Florida Sunshine State Standards.

National research studies show that service-learning programs positively impact youth in three general areas: academic engagement and achievement; civic attitudes and behaviors; and social and personal skills. Furthermore, students involved in service-learning projects attend school more, perform better, are more motivated, and are more knowledgeable about careers (Billing, 2000). By endorsing this resolution, the Board will continue to exemplify the leadership for which the District is noted, and support its goal to develop our students so that they are able to successfully compete in the global economy.

**Good Cause  
H-16**

This item does not appear in the published Agenda. There is good cause to vary from the Agenda as the State of Florida designates April as Florida Service Learning Month and the next scheduled Board Meeting is in May. Transportation has already been arranged for two students to attend the School Board meeting to speak about Service Learning. In addition, District-wide activities have been prepared and are being finalized.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTIN S. KARP:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-035 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing April 2010, as Florida Service-Learning Month.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-035  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
ENDORING APRIL 2010 AS FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING MONTH  
TO BE CELEBRATED IN  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida proclaim April 2010, as Florida Service-Learning Month and encourage all Florida teachers and schools to participate and engage others in service-learning activities now and for as long as they are able; and

**WHEREAS**, service-learning allows students and other youth to practice knowledge, skills, and behaviors, through meeting community needs; and

**WHEREAS**, service-learning brings schools and communities together to work jointly on societal needs and problems; and

**WHEREAS**, service-learning empowers students and other youth to take leadership roles in improving society; and

**WHEREAS**, service-learning integrates service activities with academic curricula and Florida's Sunshine State Standards, providing students with hands-on, real-life learning opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, service-learning activities provide students and other youth with opportunities for career exploration and the chance to develop and practice job skills; and

**WHEREAS**, students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-035 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorsing April 2010, as

**FLORIDA SERVICE-LEARNING MONTH**

and call upon the people of the Miami-Dade County to engage in service-learning projects, promote the spirit of service-learning, and observe the month with appropriate activities, programs, and ceremonies supporting the theme, "Raising Our Voices for Service-Learning."

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this fourteenth day of April, A.D. 2010

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Secretary