


## MEMORANDUM

March 4, 2020

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: STAFF FOLLOW-UP: SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2019, AGENDA ITEM H-10, HOLIDAY OPT-IN LEARNING**

At the School Board meeting of November 20, 2019, the Board approved Agenda Item H-10 proffered by School Board Member Dr. Martin Karp. Agenda Item H-10 requested that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to: 1) explore the possibility of a holiday opt-in program on a limited basis which would provide educational experiences for students during national holidays; and 2) provide a response to the School Board no later than the March 2020 School Board meeting.

Through the Department of Social Sciences in the Division of Academics, instructional resources are provided on an annual basis for teachers to support learning and increase student awareness of the importance and purpose of national holidays. Instructional resources provided include background information, lesson plans geared for elementary and secondary students, a list of related Internet resources, and instructional activity suggestions tied to the relevant character education trait being highlighted for that month. In addition, a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting the importance and purpose of the national holiday is provided for schools to use during school-wide announcements and/or for individual teachers to use. Each national holiday instructional resource is published and announced via weekly briefing and posted on the District's Curriculum Resources SharePoint site. Attached is a chart delineating the national holidays for which instructional resources are provided.

Recognizing the need to increase student awareness of the importance and purpose of national holidays, especially when the holiday constitutes a day when schools are closed, beginning with Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, the instructional resources provided to schools will be modified to include a list of "Out-of-Classroom Learning Opportunities" related to said holiday. The addendum will also include a list of local activities available for students, such as parades and ceremonies, to increase student awareness of the many cultural events available to them on a day when schools are closed. In addition to the addendum to instructional resources mentioned above, an increased effort to promote awareness of the importance and purpose of national holidays will be accomplished using social media platforms.

Agenda Item H-10 also mentioned the possible consideration of a limited pilot program where a selected number of schools would be open on certain national holidays for students to engage with teachers in meaningful lessons and/or educational activities. The M-DCPS/UTD Collective Bargaining Agreement identifies several legal holidays,

the length of the work year, and the compensation provided to employees. Any changes to employee reporting during legal holidays would require changes to the collective bargaining agreement through negotiations with the United Teachers of Dade. Additionally, compensation for employees would most likely be at a higher rate as a result of the holiday status. It may be subject to overtime for employees who are subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act, which includes employees represented by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451.

AMC:rcb  
M868

Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
Ms. Lisette M. Alves  
Mr. Robert C. Brazofsky  
School Board Agenda Office



**List of Instructional Resources by Month**

**Published annually by the Division of Academics, Department of Social Sciences**

To access Special Commemorative Instructional Resources, access the District's Portal, click on the "Curriculum Resources" tab, then find the yellow tab titled "Special Commemorative Resources."

Month	Topic/Focus	Month	Topic/Focus
September	American Founder's Month Patriot Day- 9/11 Commemoration September 15-October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month Constitution Day- September 17 Celebrate Freedom Week- last week of September	February	African-American History Month <b>Presidents' Day*</b>
		March	Women's History Month Medal of Honor Day (March 25)
October	Continuation of Hispanic Heritage Month until October 15 Election Resources (during specific years only)	April	Holocaust Remembrance Days Financial Literacy Month
November	Native American History Month <b>(includes information on Thanksgiving)*</b> <b>Veterans Day*</b>	May	Haitian Heritage Month Jewish American Heritage Month <b>Memorial Day*</b> Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
December	Human Rights Day Bill of Rights Day	June	Caribbean American Heritage Month
January	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day*</b> Florida Jewish History Month	<b>Note: The instructional resources depicted in this chart are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social Sciences. For a complete list of required topics of study, please see the District's Student Progression Plan.</b>	

**\*Indicates a National Holiday when school is not in session.**

