

NEWS

**AS PROPOSED BY BOARD MEMBER PERLA TABARES HANTMAN,
SCHOOL BOARD VOTES TO ENDORSE GRANT SUBMITTED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI TO IMPROVE WALKSAFE PROGRAM**

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NEWS RELEASE FROM PERLA TABARES HANTMAN

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As proposed by School Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman, District 4, the Miami-Dade School Board voted unanimously to endorse a grant application by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine (UM) that will create a safety intervention program to improve the WalkSafe program.

“Student safety must always be in the forefront of everything we do,” said Hantman, a long-time proponent of student pedestrian safety. “The information obtained will help determine the strengths and weaknesses of the WalkSafe educational program.”

The WalkSafe is a nationally recognized evidence-based child safety program that has been offered at all Miami-Dade County public elementary schools since 2001. It has led to a significant decrease in the number of children being hit by cars. However, there are still those students who inevitably fall victim to such accidents. The grant, from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, will benefit injured children by identifying the gaps in the WalkSafe program through a series of steps.

Once a child is admitted to a Level One Trauma Center in the county, UM will perform a series of steps, such as conducting interviews with the child and his/her family, reviewing police reports, and conducting visits of the incident sites. The program also will present an educational component and will provide various sources of data as part of the study.

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