

March 19, 2003

Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO MANDATE THE INTEGRATION OF THE "WALKSAFE" PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM, DEVELOPED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, RYDER TRAUMA CENTER, INTO THE EXISTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL'S PEDESTRIAN/BUS SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM, GRADES K-5 DISTRICTWIDE**

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

At the request of Mr. Frank J. Cobo, Member, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorization is requested for the Superintendent to mandate the integration of the "WalkSafe" Pedestrian Safety program into the existing Miami-Dade County Public School's Pedestrian/School Bus Safety Education Program. At the Board Meeting of January 16, 2002, the School Board approved Agenda Item J-4. The districtwide implementation of this program represents the third phase of the "WalkSafe" initiative. The objectives of the "WalkSafe" program are to:

- reduce the incidence of Pediatric Pedestrian Trauma;
- implement a formal educational, school based program, for elementary school children in grades K-5;
- create a comprehensive community oriented interagency program involving education, engineering and enforcement to decrease the number of pediatric pedestrian injuries; and
- implement the "WalkSafe" program on an annual basis.

It is recommended that the "WalkSafe" curriculum be implemented early in the school year to coincide with the International Walk-to-School Day in the beginning of October. The "WalkSafe" program lessons would take place for 30 minutes on three consecutive days. The "WalkSafe" curriculum currently supports the K-5 objectives for safety education in the Competency-Based Curriculum of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

No local funds are required.