

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla T. Hantman, Board Member
Ms. Mari Tere Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-047 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING HEALTH INFORMATION PROJECT (HIP)

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Health Information Project (HIP) is a program that allows high school students to make talking about all aspects of health the norm. In 2008, public high schools in the State of Florida no longer included health education class as a requirement for graduation. Due to budget cuts, teacher shortages, and lack of state and federal mandates, health classes were eliminated in most schools. Founded in 2009 by Risa Berrin and her sister Valerie Berrin, HIP was created after the need for a comprehensive health curriculum in schools was made evident.

HIP provides our schools with a cost-effective and sustainable solution to the lack of health education by helping students create a culture in schools where discussions about health are common, safe, and acceptable. Using a peer-to-peer teaching technique, HIP gives high school juniors and seniors, otherwise known as Peer Health Educators, the tools and knowledge necessary to conduct discussion sessions with freshmen students centered on various health topics and issues teens currently face including nutrition, general wellness, depression, physical abuse, bullying, anxiety, suicide, eating disorders, grief, stress, and obesity. Through this method, students are given the opportunity to learn about health in a way that is comfortable and most beneficial to them. At the same time, Peer Health Educators are able to benefit from the experience, gaining insight on classroom management, public speaking, and the meaning of leadership.

At this time, HIP has partnered with 54 high schools in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, training 1,400 student health advisors providing education to 32,000 9th graders every year. Through their discussion sessions, health resource sites, school-wide health campaigns, and healthcare partnerships, HIP has provided students in our district with a unique and instrumental approach to health education and healthcare access.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-047 recognizing Health Information Project (HIP).

**Replacement
B-17**

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-047
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING HEALTH INFORMATION PROJECT (HIP)**

WHEREAS, Health Information Project (HIP) was founded in 2009 by Risa Berrin and Valerie Berrin after the necessity for a comprehensive health curriculum in schools was made evident; and

WHEREAS, HIP has provided our schools with a cost-effective and sustainable solution to the absence of health education by helping students create a culture in schools where discussions about health are common, safe, and acceptable; and

WHEREAS, using a peer-to-peer teaching technique, HIP gives high school juniors and seniors, otherwise known as Peer Health Educators, the tools and knowledge necessary to conduct discussion sessions with freshmen students focusing on various health topics and issues teens are currently facing; and

WHEREAS, this method, gives students the opportunity to learn about health in a way that is comfortable and most beneficial to them, while at the same time it benefits Peer Health Educators who gain experience in classroom management, public speaking, and the meaning of leadership; and

WHEREAS, at this time, HIP has partnered with 54 high schools in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, training 1,400 student health advisors providing education to 32,000 9th graders every year; and

WHEREAS, HIP has provided students in our district with a unique and influential approach to health education and healthcare access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-047 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Health Information Project (HIP).

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

Presented this fifth day of April, A.D. 2017

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary