



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Jose L. Dotres

March 7, 2024

Miami-Dade County School Board

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The Honorable Vince C. Lago
Mayor, City of Coral Gables
Coral Gables City Hall
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dear Mayor Lago,

School crossing guards are a valuable engineering and educational resource which enhance the safety of students, specifically those walking and cycling in school zones. School crossing guards help students' cross streets and navigate traffic before and after school hours.

In Florida, several statutes provide guidance to school superintendents, school boards, and local governments in determining hazardous walking conditions for students. Florida State Statute (FS) 316.75 – *School crossing guards*; (FS) 316.1895 – *Establishing of school speed zones, enforcement, designation*; and (FS) 234.021 – *Hazardous walking conditions*, which also defines the term "student" for purpose of this statute as "any public elementary school student whose grade level does not exceed grade 6" are some examples.

Currently, school crossing guards are assigned to elementary schools, K-8 centers, and middle schools. Crossing guards are not assigned to senior high schools. Middle schools and K-8 centers have assigned crossing guards because they house sixth grade students.

The recent tragic events outside Coral Gables Senior High School on Bird Road and LeJeune Road, where a University of Miami student was killed while riding his scooter, and other traffic fatalities that have occurred nearby, have prompted me to make an official request from the City of Coral Gables to pursue the funding and the deployment of school crossing guards to Coral Gables Senior High School. I am also requesting a review of current traffic patterns and conditions which may be hazardous to students attending the high school.

As a follow-up to our conversation this morning, and as a proud resident of the City of Coral Gables representing the citizens and students of District 6, and the School Board Chair, I am seeking the support of your office and the City Commission to assist us with the safety of the students and citizens who are part of the Coral Gables Senior High School family. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please feel free to call me at any time if you need any further information or clarification regarding this request.

Affectionately,

Mari Tere Rojas, School Board Chair

cc: City of Coral Gables Commissioners
Dr. Jose L. Dotres, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Walter Harvey, General Counsel
Dr. John Pace, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Michael Lewis, Region Superintendent