

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 16, 2025

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the School Board of Miami-Dade County to adopt a policy prohibiting high-school students from using cell phones during school hours; and urging the Florida Department of Education to select Miami-Dade County as one of the pilot counties for its new "bell-to-bell" cell phone prohibition pilot program

Resolution No. R-788-25

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 16, 2025

FROM: 
Glen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3) (h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c) (2) ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)
7-16-25

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-788-25

RESOLUTION URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO ADOPT A POLICY PROHIBITING HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM USING CELL PHONES DURING SCHOOL HOURS; AND URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SELECT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AS ONE OF THE PILOT COUNTIES FOR ITS NEW “BELL-TO-BELL” CELL PHONE PROHIBITION PILOT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, academic research and anecdotal data strongly support that students’ use of cell phones during school hours may negatively affect their mental health and capacity to learn; and

WHEREAS, the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations, the National Center for Education Statistics, found in a recent poll that most public-school leaders believe cell phone use, among other problems, hurts students’ academic performance; and

WHEREAS, various states and local governments have already prohibited students from using cell phones during school hours, a policy often referred to as “bell-to-bell, no cell”; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Miami-Dade County is the entity responsible for adopting policies pertaining to public school education in the county; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that a prohibition on students using cell phones during school hours would, among other things, help minimize distractions detrimental to students’ education and mental wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill 1105 by Representative Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R – Bartow) which, among other things,

expanded the current restriction on cell phone use in public and charter schools to now fully prohibit cell phone use during school hours for the relevant elementary and middle schools, creating a bell-to-bell prohibition; and

WHEREAS, the bill also created a pilot program to test bell-to-bell cell phone prohibitions for high schools in two smaller counties, two medium-sized counties, and two large counties; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County would be an excellent candidate for the State's pilot program to test bell-to-bell cell phone use prohibitions in public and charter high schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the School Board of Miami-Dade County to adopt a policy prohibiting high-school students from using cell phones in school during school hours.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Department of Education to select Miami-Dade County as one of the pilot counties for the State's bell-to-bell cell phone prohibition pilot in public and charter high schools.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Florida Commissioner of Education, the Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the Members of the School Board of Miami-Dade County.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Natalie Milian Orbis. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Eileen Higgins** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	absent
Sen. René García	aye	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of July, 2025. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Christian J. Fernandez-Andes
Luis M. Reyes