

On behalf of Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, I want to thank all of you for joining us as we kick off Back to School season.

Summer is flying by, and today on the first day of August and the start of the State sales tax holiday, parents and students throughout Miami-Dade are starting to get everything ready to head back into the classrooms.

And to make sure ALL children are ready for school, the Office Depot Foundation National Backpack Program is demonstrating a deep commitment to making sure that children have tools to succeed in school, which leads to later success in life.

Every child deserves to start school on equal footing with their peers, and today we are helping them begin the school year with dignity and confidence, and with a fresh new set of school supplies.

I want to congratulate Office Depot for helping 3.3 million children since the National Backpack Program began in 2001, and for improving the lives of over 60,000 Miami area children during the past seven years alone.

Our community is blessed to have good corporate partners that have stepped up to make a difference.

We are truly grateful to the Office Depot Foundation for investing in the future of the children in our community...

And we join you in making sure that ALL KIDS can be ready to head back to school.

Thank you!

