



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

ROBERT M. AVOSSA, Ed.D  
SUPERINTENDENT

CHUCK SHAW  
CHAIRMAN

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, C-316  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5869

PHONE: 561-629-8566 / FAX: 561-649-6837  
[WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/SUPERINTENDENT](http://WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG/SUPERINTENDENT)

FRANK A. BARBIERI, JR., ESQ.  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

MARCIA ANDREWS  
KAREN M. BRILL  
MIKE MURGIO  
DEBRA ROBINSON, M.D.  
ERICA WHITFIELD

July 20, 2015

### An Opportunity to Save Lives

Richard David Kann  
Melanoma Foundation

This year marks a renewed effort in education as we recognize the need to solve a hard problem that plagues our young people – skin cancer, especially melanoma. During the first 18 years of a child's life, they are exposed to more sun than they mostly likely will experience for the rest of their adult lives. This is the time when they are more susceptible to burn which increases their risk of developing melanoma. These are also the years when they are most malleable and the knowledge that we provide will sustain them during adulthood. One person dies from melanoma every 50 minutes, one in every 50 people will be at risk to develop melanoma, and Florida is the state with the second highest incidence of melanoma in the county.

The School District of Palm Beach County partners with the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation as we support their development and implementation of a body of work that educates students in grades K-12. These life-saving programs include the SunSmart America™ curriculum ([melanomafoundation.com](http://melanomafoundation.com)), peer-based Students Against Melanoma (SAM) clubs in middle and high schools, and the K-12 Melanoma Monday Art Contest in May.

The SunSmart America curriculum contains grade appropriate lessons and activities that have been aligned to Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in health and physical education. Students will learn the basics regarding skin cancer, and ***most importantly, the prevention and early detection of a disease that is almost 100% preventable with education!***

I want to thank the Richard David Kann Melanoma Foundation of Palm Beach County for providing valuable resources and educational materials regarding sun safety education. The foundation has been an active member of our Wellness Task Force.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Avossa, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

RMA/KO:du