



*The School Board of Broward County, Florida*

RESOLUTION

No. 08-83

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALCOHOL  
AWARENESS MONTH - APRIL 2008**

*WHEREAS*, alcohol is a primary factor in the four leading causes of death for young persons ages 10-21 and

*WHEREAS*, almost 6,500 young people under the age of 21 die each year as a result of underage drinking and

*WHEREAS*, adolescents use alcohol more than tobacco or illicit drugs; and

*WHEREAS*, 64,000 Broward youth aged 12-20 years old are current users of alcohol, and more than half (n=37,537) are binge drinkers; and

*WHEREAS*, 28% of Broward High School youth (n=39,460) had their first drink of alcohol before age 13, and research shows that people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

*WHEREAS*, the Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco reports that 30% of the convenience stores in Broward County still sell alcohol to underage youth; and

*WHEREAS*, the combination of alcohol with energy drinks is a dangerous emerging trend leading college/university students to be twice as likely to drink more, ride with a driver who has been drinking or commit or be a victim of sexual assault; and

*WHEREAS*, the typical American young person will see 100,000 beer commercials before he or she turns 18 (that is more than for sneakers, gum and jeans combined); and

*WHEREAS*, 13 percent of all youth, ages 12-17, had at least one serious problem related to drinking in the past year; and

*WHEREAS*, research clearly indicates that parents are the number one factor preventing children/youth from drinking; and

*WHEREAS*, the United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse's mission is to empower our diverse community to live healthy and drug free; and

*WHEREAS*, as part of a national effort to prevent underage drinking, the United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse and its partners are one of more than two thousand coalitions across America that will organize events during the month of April, 2008, with the theme: "Start Talking Before They Start Drinking;"

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board Of Broward County, Florida, with the United Way Of Broward County Commission On Substance Abuse, join the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) and do hereby proclaim April 2008 as "Alcohol Awareness Month." As the School Board of Broward County, we also call upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools, and colleges to support efforts that will increase community awareness, understanding, and action to address underage drinking in our community and join us in "Saving Lives: Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking."

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2008.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Bartleman, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
James F. Notter, Superintendent