



# Kiwaniis Florida District

August 24, 2020

The Honorable Richard Corcoran  
Commissioner, Florida Department of Education  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1514  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The Honorable Dr. Mike Grego  
President, Florida Association of District School Superintendents  
208 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

The Honorable Jane Goodwin  
President, Florida School Board Association  
203 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Commissioner Corcoran, President Grego, and President Goodwin,

It is widely recognized that the benefits of schooling extend well past academics. Schools are a place where students can learn and explore while interacting with their peers and community. This is often accomplished through student clubs and organizations that connect youth with their community and help to develop their sense of purpose while honing their leadership skills. One of the largest and most prominent student organizations is Key Club, founded in 1925, with a worldwide membership of more than 250,000 members. Here in the Florida District we are fortunate to have more than 350 clubs with a combined membership of 23,000 students. Kiwanis, an adult service organization, plays an integral role in chartering and caring for these school-based Key Clubs. For nearly 100 years, this partnership with Kiwanis and Key Club has not only benefited young student leaders, but provided valuable service to our homes, schools, and communities. As Kiwanians, community advocates, and parents, we implore your continued support for Key Club by ensuring their presence in our Florida schools.

There is no doubt that today's youth are resilient and can overcome many challenges. We are confident that our students can work with administrators, teachers and community advocates to follow all safety precautions while still being able to benefit from the experience that comes with being a member of Key Club. This confidence is built by our direct involvement with students who expressed their strong desire to continue to connect with classmates and club members through online platforms. This past Spring, these young leaders, in conjunction with school and Kiwanis support, began holding online club meetings and doing virtual service throughout their



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communities. Their desire for connectivity during this period of the pandemic has not waived, serving to only solidify the importance of having these clubs as outlets for student expression and engagement.

This letter is presented by our thousands of Florida Kiwanians, throughout all 67 school districts, who are ready to work to effectively support our Key Clubs. We have maintained great partnerships over the last 100 years and ask that, with your support, we continue doing so while our students, teachers, and administrators work to shape Florida's new normal.

We greatly appreciate your time in reviewing this letter.

Sincerely,

Allen Yergovich  
Governor, Florida District of Kiwanis  
1205 W Airport Blvd  
Sanford, FL 32773

CC: Governor Ron DeSantis  
Attorney General Ashley Moody  
Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis  
Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried  
Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Chair Casey DeSantis  
Florida Association of District School Superintendents Executive Director Bill Montford  
Florida School Board Association Executive Director Andrea Messina