



**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Education Fund Unveils Pop-Up School Supply Depot to Support Teachers & Students in South Miami-Dade County**

**MIAMI LAKES, FL – [Jan. 24, 2024]** – [The Education Fund](https://www.educationfund.org) unveils a pop-up school supply depot on Jan. 24, a move that expands the nonprofit's reach to teachers and their students in Homestead and surrounding South Dade communities of the nation's third-largest public school district.

The pop-up, which is an extension of The Education Fund's Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials in Medley, ensures that teachers in south Miami-Dade County have easy access to the classroom supplies that students need. Public school teachers can register online at [EducationFund.org](https://www.educationfund.org) to visit the pop-up depot, located at Center for International Education, A Cambridge Associate School, 900 NE 23rd Terrace in Homestead, on Wednesdays from 3 – 6 p.m.

"The Education Fund is constantly exploring innovative ways to support our students," said Linda Lecht, President of The Education Fund, "By adopting the dynamic spirit of pop-up culture, we've created our unique twist – a free school supply pop-up in Homestead. This initiative allows teachers, especially those who can't easily reach our main center, to conveniently access essential materials for enriching their students' learning experiences."

"The Kirk Foundation has supported the work of The Education Fund for decades because they deliver on their promises," said Rosa Santiago, president of The Kirk Foundation. "We saw the need for additional resources in the area, as South Dade's population has boomed. With The Education Fund's new pop-up of the Ocean Bank Center, more teachers in South Dade will have easier access to this needed resource."

"We applaud The Education Fund for its continuing efforts to provide educational materials to all areas of Miami-Dade County," said Jeanelle Boscan, SVP and Head of Human Resources of Ocean Bank and a board member of the Education Fund. "Ocean Bank is proud of our affiliation with the Education Fund and the great contributions made by the Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials."

The Education Fund established the Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials in 1993, in the wake of Hurricane Andrew. The warehouse supported students and teachers by providing classroom resources for a community devastated by the Category 5 hurricane. It was the first school supply warehouse in the country and today remains the largest of its kind at 11,000 square feet. During the early years of Covid, The Education Fund widened its reach, adding nonprofits that provide afterschool programming to its roster of beneficiaries. And, in 2021, The Education Fund further expanded the school supply pipeline in

Miami-Dade opening a Satellite Store at MDCPS' New Teachers Center. Today, with the support of Ocean Bank, The Kirk Foundation, Peacock Foundation, and other donors, The Education Fund's Ocean Bank Center provides \$3 million in supplies annually to help students succeed, with total distributions over 23+ million.

"We remain dedicated to serving the educators who invest tirelessly in shaping young minds," said Lecht. "The Ocean Bank Center's new South Dade pop-up stands as a symbol of that dedication, providing tools and resources necessary for academic success."

The Education Fund's school supply pop-up shares space at a nonprofit hub created by School Board Member Luisa Santos. The hub features a parent resource center, supplies for homeless students and office space where nonprofits can have office hours and work with students.

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### **About The Education Fund**

The Education Fund brings innovative methods to our local public schools, informs the community about public education, and encourages private sector investment in public education. Due to its success in improving student outcomes, The Education Fund has won numerous awards, including the TD Ready Challenge, Greater Miami Chamber's NOVO Award for Non-Profit Excellence, and the Blue Foundation's Sapphire Prize. Visit [educationfund.org](http://educationfund.org) to learn more.

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