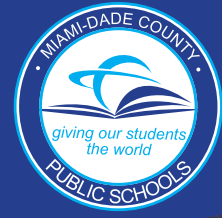


2015 State Legislative Priorities



Goal Statement:

The Florida Legislature should establish a five-year strategic plan to restore, stabilize, and increase funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to achieve at least the national average in per pupil expenditures to provide the highest quality education and to enable all of our students to be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

- **Funding**
- **Property Tax Valuation**
- **Accountability Reform**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

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Dr. Martin Karp
Dr. Marta Pérez
Raquel A. Regalado

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

For further information contact:

Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya
Associate Superintendent
Mobile: 305-606-6553
imendez@dadeschools.net

Eva M. Regueira, Ed.S.
Director
Mobile: 786-678-4336
emregueira@dadeschools.net



@mdcpsgovtnews



2015 State Legislative Priorities

FUNDING:

Restore the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to at least pre-recession levels of \$4,163.47 and the total per student funding of \$7,307.90.

Increase funding for Safe Schools and revise allocation formula so that each district's allocation is equal to fifty percent of prior year eligible district expenditures.

Fully fund the infrastructure cost and the acquisition of computers for the mandated expansion of computer-based administration of statewide testing, and the digital content conversion required by 2015-2016.

Provide school districts funding to cover the full cost of offering dual enrollment courses through incentive funding to school districts/schools that offer such programs and have successful completion of dual enrollment courses by students.

Fully fund and allow school districts to determine locally how to ensure the lowest performing schools/students receive additional instructional time by either extending the school day or extending the school year.

Amend F.S. 1011.61 to fully fund programs taken by students beyond the 1.0 FTE cap or 25 hours a week such as virtual classes outside the traditional school day and year.

Eliminate the statutory provision requiring the passage of end-of-course assessment for funding purposes.

Amend F.S. 1008.36 related to Florida School Recognition Program requiring FLDOE to distribute funds to eligible schools only after all school letter grades are released.

Fully fund the development of end-of-course (EOC).

Oppose the imposition of unfunded, state-mandated expenditures.

Modify the penalty for non-compliance with the constitutional class size requirement to be based on the school-wide average for all public schools.

Conduct an impartial third-party study to develop a cost of education Index which focuses on cost differences integral to K-12 public school district operations reflecting such costs as average teacher salaries, health insurance for employees, property insurance per FTE, and transportation costs per FTE.

PROPERTY TAX VALUATION:

Revise the Value Adjustment Board proceedings to include:

- Proof of the property owner consent/knowledge of an appeal;
- Limit appeal rescheduling to only one for good cause;
- Payment of interest at the market rate; and
- Require the property appraiser to finish all appeals by June 30th of each year.

Amend state statutes to allow school districts to levy the Prior Period Funding Adjustment Millage based on the property appraiser's estimate of the prior year gross taxable value.

ACCOUNTABILITY REFORM:

Revise the current assessment system and accountability system to:

- Provide proper field testing in Florida of the entire new state assessment, not simply sample questions, ensuring the statistical requirements of validity and reliability;
- Provide a two-year transition of grading districts and schools to allow for field testing and setting appropriate baseline assessment data;
- Authorize alternate methods for assessing learning and achievement for special populations such as ESE and English Language Learners (ELL) students;
- Ensure two years of language acquisition for ELL students;
- Suspend accountability consequences for another year;
- Provide Florida's statewide assessments in multiple languages as allowed by federal regulations;
- Eliminate the practice of using student performance on a single standardized test as the sole basis of student and school performance; and
- Perform a comprehensive review of the entire assessment program.

Reinstate a special education diploma for students with disabilities.

Ensure charter and private schools receiving public monies adhere to the same teacher certification, student placement, and progression policies to ensure compliance with federal and state accountability requirements.

