

MEMORANDUM

October 28, 2011

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools



SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – COMMITTEE MEETINGS WEEK OF OCTOBER 17-21, 2011

The Florida Legislature held interim committee meetings last week. Many of the Florida House of Representatives committees did not meet, including the Education Substantive and Education Budget committees. The Senate Education PreK-12 Appropriations committee heard a presentation on charter schools. It would appear that the charter schools are making a serious attempt to obtain a share of school districts' capital outlay ad valorem taxes. This would be detrimental as the District's projection for 2012-2013 is currently \$12 million.

The Senate Budget committee heard a presentation on the economic forecast for 2012-2013, indicating a budget gap of up to \$1.9 billion. A \$1.2 billion shortfall is projected for education K-12 funding as a result of a number of factors including: \$224 million to replace nonrecurring trust funding; an increased student enrollment of approximately 38,000 students at a cost of \$234 million; replacing declining property values of \$239 million; and replacing federal stimulus monies (\$554 million) that are sunseting in June 2012. Committee Chairman, Senator Simmons, discussed reallocations within the budget and budget reductions.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305-995-1497.

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cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert
Ms. Darla March