

MEMORANDUM

December 15, 2010

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools



SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF EDUCATION ALERT – SUPPORT DREAM ACT

On December 15, 2010, the attached request for support of the DREAM Act legislation was forwarded to the South Florida Congressional Delegation members.

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

AMC:ldb
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Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet

Education Alert

Legislation of Vital Concern to Miami-Dade County's Students

DATE: December 14, 2010
TO: Members of the Miami-Dade Congressional Delegation
FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: **SUPPORT DREAM ACT**

Many of the children enrolled in schools across the country, including here in Miami-Dade County, are living in the United States after being brought here years ago as undocumented immigrant children. These students, if they demonstrate a commitment to their academic success, should be allowed the opportunity to seek temporary resident status and eventually achieve permanent resident status. I respectfully request that Miami-Dade's Congressional delegation offer their support for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010, or DREAM Act, which creates rewards and incentives for academic achievements among young students living in the U.S. as undocumented immigrants.

BACKGROUND: The bipartisan DREAM Act would allow for students 15 years or younger, and who have been in the United States for at least five years, to obtain conditional permanent resident status and become eligible for permanent resident status following their enrollment in the U.S. military or their attending college.

The DREAM Act specifies that only those students with "good moral character" would be eligible for this program, thus creating both a reward and incentive for students who stay out of trouble and stay in school. By supporting and encouraging young students to excel in their studies and ultimately seek to attend college, the DREAM Act helps to foster a culture of students who are determined to work hard and who value their education. Furthermore, this legislation would effectively provide a path to citizenship for nearly 65,000 students across the nation who entered the country as undocumented immigrant children but who have spent much of their lives growing up in the U.S. and have been model students.

Another important aspect of this bill is its removal of a federal law that penalizes states that provide in-state tuition benefits regardless of the student's immigration status. This provision is especially critical because it would provide a vital source of financial assistance to in-need students so that they can attend college and better their chances of acquiring better-paying jobs. Many of these individuals come from families that are unable to work legally while living in the U.S., so financial support for these aspiring students is a critical aspect of their attending college.

ACTION NEEDED: We strongly urge you to support the DREAM Act's passage during the "lame-duck" session of Congress. By providing bright young students with a series of rewards and incentives that include permanent resident status and financial assistance for college, the DREAM Act will effectively create a generation of students who will positively contribute to the U.S. economy and society.