


## MEMORANDUM

March 7, 2012

**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 – CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE 2012-2013 APPROPRIATIONS**

The Florida Legislature released its conference report on the 2012-2013 General Appropriations on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, in time to allow the 72-hour cooling-off period required by the Florida Constitution prior to voting on the bill and conclude on schedule, on Friday, March 9, 2012. On Friday, the Legislature will vote on its \$70 billion budget, of which education comprises approximately 30 percent, or \$20 billion.

Despite a faltering state economy, education preK-12 funding is provided an increase of approximately \$1.05 billion, making up most, but not all the lost ground from last year. The budget recommendation provides an increase of \$150.26 per unweighted full-time equivalent or 2.41 percent on a statewide average. Student growth of approximately 31,000 is funded and the base student allocation is increased by nearly \$104 per student. Miami-Dade County Public Schools' increase is approximately \$81 million or 3.81 percent, slightly over the statewide average increase of 3.60 percent. On a per student basis, the District's increase is \$158.36, or 2.58 percent which again is slightly over the statewide average of \$150.26 or 2.41 percent.

Some highlights related to the budget are:

- School districts, again, will not receive Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funding, however, charter schools will continue to receive \$55 million.
- Adults with Disabilities is funded at \$10.8 million which does represent a 15 percent reduction. However as you may recall, the Florida Senate had eliminated all funding for this purpose in its recommended budget.
- New World School of the Arts is funded at \$400,000, which is a huge victory as we had been advised at the conclusion of the 2011 legislative session that this funding would be eliminated for 2012-2013.
- An additional \$30 million has been allocated through the Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) and the Reading Allocation categoricals to provide an additional hour of instruction at the 100 lowest performing elementary schools in reading. Students who are level 5 in the reading assessment may choose to participate on a voluntary basis.
- Public broadcasting television stations are provided state funding at approximately \$3.9 million.

Other Board priorities are included in the conforming bills which have yet to be released. The conforming rules must be made public minimally 24 hours prior to a vote, so the Legislature has until sometime Thursday to make them public. In the Education PreK-12 conforming bill the penalty associated with non-compliance with class size reduction is being reduced to one-half of the base student allocations for two fiscal years. Additionally, in the Higher Education conforming bill it is anticipated that the continuation of the co-enrollment policy is extended under the current criteria for another year.

If you have any 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:ibd  
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cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert