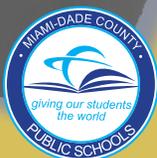




2013 State Legislative Program



The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Susie V. Castillo
Carlos L. Curbelo
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman
Dr. Wilbert "Tee" Holloway
Dr. Marta Pérez
Raquel A. Regalado

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs,
Grants Administration, and
Community Engagement
1450 N.E. 2 Avenue, Suite 931
Miami, FL 33132
305-995-1497 • FAX 305-995-3088
gafla.dadeschools.net

For further information contact:

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

Lubby Navarro, Director
Mobile: 786-412-3024
lubby9@dadeschools.net

Priorities

- Funding
- Capital Funding
- School Safety
- Workforce Development
- Accountability
- Parent Empowerment
- Capital Outlay for Charter Schools
- Charter Schools

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

Modify the compliance of the Constitutional Class Size Requirement to be assessed at the school-wide average as it is applied to charter schools.

Invest in education by designating a percentage of economic growth dollars to education.

Maintain the current employers' contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing the planned increase for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Support maximum flexibility in the use of categorical funds, i.e., conversion of instructional materials to digital formats.

Oppose unfunded state mandates.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Fully fund provisions of Florida Statute 1013.64 pertaining to the Public Education Capital Outlay Program that involve construction and maintenance of public school districts.

Oppose any diversion of Local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy revenue from traditional public schools to charter schools.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Increase funding for Safe Schools to implement and expand interventions that focus on reducing disruptive and aggressive behaviors and strengthen emotional and behavioral competencies of students.

Support legislation that implements harsher penalties for individuals who deliberately place pornographic or obscene materials in school zones.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Continue to allow co-enrollment as an option for high school students who need credit recovery or to improve their cumulative grade point average fro graduation.

ACCOUNTABILITY...

Exempt ESE centers from the school grading system, develop alternative assessment model that appropriately measures student achievement, and establish statewide criteria for student placement in ESE centers.

Eliminate the requirement to pass EOC exam(s) for promotion, and ensure that EOC's do not exceed more than 30 percent of the student's final grade.

Ensure charter and private schools adhere to the same teacher certification, student placement and progression policies to comply with federal and state accountability requirements.

... ACCOUNTABILITY

Revise the current assessment and accountability systems to:

- + include data from multiple forms of assessment;
- + eliminate the practice of using student standardized test performance as the only gauge for student and social performance;
- + assess student proficiency based on progress made during the entire school year;
- + authorize alternative methods for learning assessment and achievement for ESE and English Language Learners (ELL) students; and
- + administer the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), PARCC, and other statewide assessments in multiple languages as allowed by federal regulations.

PARENT EMPOWERMENT

Oppose any changes regarding conversions of traditional public schools to charter schools that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Support capital funding for charter schools that:

- + creates neither a reduction of funding to traditional public schools in operating or capital funding nor an additional taxing mandate on the local school district;
- + requires public input; and
- + protects the taxpayers' investment by ensuring that capital funding be spent only on assets that can be returned to the public school district.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Allow traditional public schools to extend statutory flexibility on the exemption from State Required Education Facilities (SREF), categorical funding, accountability, class size reduction compliance, and penalties not affecting charter schools.

Improve safeguards and transparencies for taxpayer investments between traditional public schools and charter schools, including, but not limited to, implementing the following safeguards:

- + require that charter school applications and lotteries be administered by local school boards to ensure a fair, equitable, and transparent admission process for all students;
- + allow local school districts to negotiate appropriate usage fees based on market comparables;
- + require funding to follow the student when transferring between charter and traditional public schools during the entire school year; and
- + establish similar traditional public school financial disclosure standards for charter school officers and/or related parties involved in financial decision making.