


MEMORANDUM

December 1, 2015

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR RELEASES RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR 2016-2017 FISCAL YEAR

On Monday, November 23, 2015, Governor Rick Scott released his recommended "Florida First Budget," to the Florida Legislature. The Governor proposed a \$79.3 billion state budget that reflects his priorities for the upcoming legislative session. His budget proposal focuses on cutting more than \$1.0 billion in taxes for Florida families and businesses; making Florida more competitive to help small businesses succeed; and "investing historic funding in K-12 education, State Colleges and Universities so that Florida has the most highly skilled workforce in the world."

The Governor's proposed 2016-2017 K-12 Education Budget totals approximately \$20.2 billion, an increase of \$507 million, or 2.57 percent, funding nearly 3 million students statewide. The increase is a combination of state dollars of \$80.0 million or 16 percent, and local funds totaling approximately \$427 million, or 84 percent. The statewide taxing rates remain the same as the current year with the Required Local Effort Millage steady at 4.984 and the Discretionary Millage at 0.748 mills. This proposed budget relies on the continued growth of local property values statewide to fund public education in stark contrast to the Governor's 2015 budget recommendation that provided a proposed increase of \$842.5 million, or 4.46 percent, where state dollars made up 47 percent of the recommended increase and local funds made up the remaining 53 percent.

Budget highlights include funding for:

- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increases by \$44.60 per student to \$4,199.05;
- Total per student funding increases by \$115.53 per student to \$7,220.59;
- Enrollment growth of approximately 25,887.22 new weighted students to the state;
- Safe Schools increases by approximately \$10 million statewide to \$74.4 million;
- Sparsely increases by \$3.0 million statewide to \$55.8 million;
- Supplemental Academic Instruction increases by \$12.9 million statewide to \$661 million;
- ESE Guaranteed Allocation increases by \$20.8 million to \$980 million;
- Digital Classrooms allocation increases by \$20 million to \$80 million;
- Class Size Reduction Categorical increases by \$30 million to \$3.05 billion;
- Student Transportation increases by \$8.6 million to \$438 million; and
- New World School of the Arts is funded at \$650,000.

For capital outlay needs, the Governor is proposing \$75.1 million for traditional public schools and another \$75.1 million for charter schools. Additionally, the Governor is recommending \$10.7 million in grant funds to public colleges and school districts for programs serving adults with disabilities. As reported previously, \$20 million is being recommended for Technical Center Rapid Response grants to technical centers.

The last week of pre-session committee meetings will take place November 30, 2015 - December 4, 2015. The 60-day regular session will begin on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

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

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cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet