

MEMORANDUM

July 23, 2015

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SESSION ON CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

Senate President Andy Gardiner and House Speaker Steve Crisafulli have called a special session to be held from August 10, to August 21, 2015, for the sole and exclusive purpose of redrawing the congressional maps used to elect members of the Florida Congressional Delegation which were recently ruled unconstitutional by the Florida Supreme Court. The Florida Supreme Court ruled that eight of the current congressional districts fail to pass constitutional muster after voters amended the state Constitution in 2010 to limit gerrymandering. Three of the eight congressional districts in question are in South Florida: District 18 (Ros-Lehtinen), District 21 (Diaz-Balart), and District 25 (Curbelo). The ruling means new maps will have to be drawn for congressional districts before next year's election. If the Legislature fails to develop Congressional maps that satisfy the Court's ruling, then the Court will need to do so.

Speaker Crisafulli has appointed Representative Jose Oliva to serve as his point man for congressional redistricting when the Legislature convenes in special session next month. Speaker Crisafulli announced Monday, that Representative Oliva, who is scheduled to become House Speaker after the 2018 elections, will lead the House Redistricting Committee. Senator Bill Galvano will chair the Senate Committee on Reapportionment.

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