


MEMORANDUM

May 9, 2017

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: 2017 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – FLORIDA LEGISLATURE PASSES BUDGET AND CONFORMING BILL

The Florida Legislature convened on Monday, May 8, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of addressing the budget pursuant to the 72-hour rule, the related conforming and implementing bills, and the tax package. After much debate, both chambers passed the 2017-2018 state budget and HB 7069.

Next, the bills will be certified and presented to the Governor. Once the Governor receives the bills, he will have 15 days to sign them into law, allow them to become law without his signature, or veto them.

As a reminder, budget highlights include:

- Base Student Allocation (BSA) **decreases** by \$27.07 per student from \$4,160.71 to \$4,133.64;
- Per student total funding increases by \$24.49 per student to \$7,220.72, below per student funding during 2007-2008;
- Enrollment growth of approximately 23,918.90 new students to the state;
- Safe Schools remains flat at \$64 million;
- Sparsity is level-funded at \$52.8 million;
- Supplemental Academic Instruction increases by \$5.5 million statewide to \$712.2 million;
- ESE Guaranteed Allocation increases by \$5.4 million to \$1.06 billion;
- Digital Classrooms allocation is level-funded at \$80 million;
- Class Size Reduction Categorical increases by \$25.9 million to \$3.09 billion;
- Student Transportation increases by \$3.7 million to \$438.8 million; and
- M-DCPS' total increase is \$5.9 million, or 0.23 percent, while retirement costs is estimated to increase by \$5.7 million.

The conference report on the conforming bill, HB 7069, includes several of the Board's legislative priorities. However, it also includes the requirement for a portion of the 1.5 mills dedicated for capital purposes to be shared with charter schools. Because of the recurring and escalating negative financial impact to the district's 5-year capital plan, the Board has historically opposed this measure. Furthermore, HB 7069 imposes limitations on school boards' use of Title I funds and requires the use of the standard contract with no modifications when sponsoring a charter school.

Staff and the Board's state legislative consultants advocated for the defeat of both the budget (SB 2500) and the conference report HB 7069. Although the bills passed both chambers, the bills now go to the Governor. Staff will be advocating for a veto on both of these bills.

If you have any questions or need additional information, 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