



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Superintendent of Schools
Alberto M. Carvalho

Miami-Dade County School Board

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May 12, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott
Plaza Level 05, The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

On Monday, May 8, 2017, the Florida House and Senate passed their proposed 2017 Florida budget and pertinent conforming bills. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) urges you to line-item veto the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) component of the proposed state budget. The budget is completely out of alignment with the needs of public schools and our students.

Among the provisions of the Conference Agreement related to the FEFP are the following:

- Provides an increase of \$241.4 million statewide, or 1.2%, the lowest since 2011-2012;
- Provides a \$24.49, or 0.34%, increase in total per student funding;
- Reduces the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$27.07, or -0.65%, to \$4,133.64; and
- Reduces Required Local Effort (RLE) by 0.316, resulting in a revenue loss of \$577 million statewide and \$88 million for M-DCPS.

The proposed budget will pay for none of M-DCPS projected expense increases for 2017-2018, including:

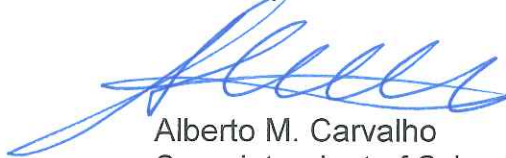
- Increased costs associated with classroom support and technology (\$14 million);
- Increased health care costs (\$17 million); and
- Increased utilities costs (\$6 million).

In fact, the FEFP dollars provided will only cover the increase in the Florida Retirement System (FRS)-mandated expenditures forcing budget reductions. Perhaps the most impactful provision is that the legislature has reduced the RLE, resulting in a BSA that is \$27.07 lower per student than the current year. **In fact, the proposed 2017-2018 BSA is lower than the BSA a decade ago. What is worse, this is the first time in the State of Florida's history that the BSA has been cut in a non-recession year.** All this in the same year where the Legislature has provided \$140 million in additional funding to

Schools of Hope and \$214 million in teacher bonuses for only certain teachers through the Best and Brightest program. These bonuses are non-recurring and have no impact on teachers' FRS earnings or retention. If the \$414 million were instead put back into the budget as part of the BSA, we would have had approximately a 2 percent increase in funding statewide.

For the aforementioned reasons, we respectfully request that you line-item veto the FEFP component of the State budget. 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.

Sincerely,



Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

AMC:emr
L1099

cc: School Board Members
School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet

Dr. Kim McDougal