


MEMORANDUM

January 31, 2017

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 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR

On Tuesday, January 31, 2017, Governor Rick Scott released his recommended budget to the Florida Legislature. The Governor proposed an \$83.5 billion state budget that reflects his priorities for the upcoming legislative session. His budget proposal focuses on cutting more than \$618 million in taxes, adding more than \$85 million in business incentives, and expanding Florida's Bright Future Scholarship program to cover college-level summer courses.

The Governor's proposed 2017-2018 K-12 Education Budget totals approximately \$21 billion, an increase of \$815 million (4.04 percent). It funds more than 3 million students statewide. The increase is a combination of \$257.2 million in state dollars (31.6 percent) and \$557.9 million in local funds (68.4 percent). The statewide taxing rates remain the same as the current year with the Required Local Effort Millage steady at 4.638 and the Discretionary Millage steady at 0.748 mills. The Governor's proposed budget relies on the continued statewide growth of local property values to fund public education. This is in contrast with current budget discussions from the Florida House of Representatives that would roll back property taxes that fund public education. The Governor's recommended budget is slightly higher than the State Board of Education's budget request.

Budget highlights include:

- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increases by \$141.19 per student to \$4,301.90;
- Total per student funding increases by \$216.41 per student to \$7,421, the highest per student funding in the state's history;
- Enrollment growth of approximately 28,192 new students to the state;
- Safe Schools increases by approximately \$10 million statewide to \$74.4 million;
- Sparsity increases by \$4.5 million statewide to \$57.3 million;
- Supplemental Academic Instruction increases by \$28.9 million statewide to \$735.5 million;
- ESE Guaranteed Allocation increases by \$48.9 million to \$1.1 billion;
- Digital Classrooms allocation level-funding at \$80 million;
- Class Size Reduction Categorical increases by \$22.3 million to \$3.09 billion;
- Student Transportation increases by \$19.2 million to \$454 million;
- Adults with Disabilities funded at \$5.2 million; and
- New World School of the Arts funded at \$650,000.

For capital outlay needs, the Governor is proposing \$75 million for traditional public schools and another \$75 million for charter schools. Additionally, the Governor is repurposing the Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship for teacher recruitment and retention with a recommended appropriation of \$48 million.

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.

AMC:ajo
M679

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet