


MEMORANDUM

November 22, 2017

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: 2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – INTERIM COMMITTEE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13-17, 2017

The Florida Legislature met the week of November 13, 2017, for its fourth week of interim committees leading up to the 2018 Legislative Session.

The House Select Committee on Hurricane Readiness and Preparedness met and had presentations and discussion related to waterway debris removal and derelict vessels; sanitary sewer systems; storm water and flooding; beach restoration; and housing.

Update on Board's Priorities

- **District Cost Differential (DCD)** – Representative Manny Diaz, Chairman of the House Education K-12 Appropriations Committee, and Senator Rene Garcia have filed HB 495 and SB 824, respectively, requiring a study of the DCD every ten years beginning in 2018. Additionally, an appropriations request for \$100,000 was submitted by Chairman Diaz and Senator Anitere Flores to fund the study.
- **Title I Flexibility** – Senator Rene Garcia has filed draft language providing school districts greater flexibility with the Title I funds retained in the district by adding allowable set-asides. The language is in bill drafting in both chambers. Additionally, the language was provided to Representative Michael Bileca, Chairman of the House Education Committee, and Chairman Manny Diaz.
- **Capital Outlay Funding** – As a follow-up to the Board's advocacy trip, language was drafted and provided to both Chair Michael Bileca and Chair Manny Diaz regarding the funding of charter schools' capital needs. The language proposes to delay the statutory date of the distribution of capital millage funds from February 1 to April 1 for this year only. The delay would afford the Legislature the opportunity to develop an alternative recurring funding source for charter schools' capital needs during the 2018 session. Additionally, proposals for an alternative funding source for capital for charter schools have been provided to legislators for sponsorship. One proposal creates a state-revolving loan for charter schools, and the other proposal would have the state bond the funding for the charters. These proposals can be funded using PECO, General Revenue, gaming, or any other funding source.

Staff will continue to update the Board on these issues as new information becomes available.

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