

Education Alert

Legislation of Vital Concern to Miami-Dade County's Students

DATE: December 18, 2017
TO: Members of the Miami-Dade Congressional Delegation
FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: PROTECT TITLE II-A TEACHER QUALITY INVESTMENTS IN FY2018



As Congress considers its final FY2018 appropriations, we urge the Miami-Dade congressional delegation to **ensure that Title II-a funding to support teacher training is fully restored.**

BACKGROUND: In developing the FY2018 budget resolution to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Senate and House adopted radically different versions of Title II-A, Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants:

- The House proposed to eliminate Title II-A as part of a 3.5 percent or \$2.4 billion reduction below 2017 appropriations (adjusted for inflation, 20 percent below 2010 levels), passing largely along party lines. By comparison, the Trump Administration also proposed to end Title II-A as part of much deeper 13.5 percent cuts to education, or \$9.2 billion below current levels.
- The Senate proposed a modest Title II-A increase from \$2.044 to \$2.056 billion, with the Labor-HHS-Education budget passing committee by a 29-2 vote. By comparison, the bipartisan ESSA also authorizes modest annual increases in most education programs.
- The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 maintained Senate Title II-A funding subject to across-the-board reductions of 0.68 percent. The Continuing Resolution (CR) has been in effect from October 1st through December 8th and was extended through December 22, 2017.

For public education, Title II-A is a critical response to local teacher shortages and instructional needs:

- **Annual teacher shortages** are pervasive in Florida, and have increased nationally with “alarming” drops in interest, qualifications, and applications to education (ACT 2016).
- **Most new Miami-Dade teachers are non-education majors** and 12.8 percent overall work out of field, intensifying local needs to orient, upgrade, and retain quality teachers.
- **Despite significant progress, 28 hard-to-serve schools** continue to be identified as fragile, highly mobile, low performing, and difficult to staff within our county.

Equally important, Title II-A helps to achieve a training capacity that is both effective and extensive:

- **Title II-A serves an entire pipeline** from recruitment to new teacher induction and mentoring, career ladder and leadership opportunities, school leader development, and fragile schools.
- **In one year, 86 percent of core subject area teachers** participated in local Title II-A-funded programs, with an annual total of 58,331 teacher training enrollments—including **private school teachers** whose schools serve 27,088 students outside of the public system.
- **99 percent of teachers in Miami-Dade agree** that the professional learning impacted their practice, and 89 percent say this impact translates into measurable student performance gains.

If Title II-A cuts were to be included in the pending FY 2018 Omnibus bill, they would severely impact our capacity to overcome widespread workforce challenges and sustain long-term student progress.

ACTION NEEDED: As teacher quality is a primary determinant of school and student outcomes, we urge our Congressional members to **sustain fully the Title II-A investments in our teachers.** For further information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement at 305-995-2532.

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