

Education Alert

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

Date: August 27, 2001
To: Florida Congressional Delegation
From: Roger C. Cuevas, Superintendent of Schools
Re: **Bilingual Issues in Title III**

As you well know, the State of Florida is greatly affected by immigration and bilingual education issues. The differences between the House and Senate versions of Title III, Part A, under the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), are of the utmost importance to school districts such as Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

To ensure that the legislative impact on our region is considered during the House and Senate conference negotiations, Miami-Dade County Public Schools respectfully requests the unified support of the Florida Congressional Delegation on the following issues related to Limited English Proficient (LEP) students:

- to maintain the Emergency Immigrant Education Program (EIEP) which currently addresses the academic needs of nearly 50,000 students (a \$3.7 million local impact) as a separate category of funding;
- to include provisions for parental notification, and opting out of services; and
- to permit individual LEP students to participate in services beyond the 3-year time limit, on a case-by-case basis, when the local education agency has properly documented the student's need for additional English language acquisition.

REQUESTED ACTION: Please take a moment to review the attached side-by-side comparison prepared by our staff, and encourage your House and Senate colleagues to support these priorities, which will help school districts affected by federal immigration policy to meet the essential educational needs of these children.

Ms. Danielle L. McBeth, Alcalde & Fay, will visit your Washington, D.C. office in order to obtain the timely support of each Representative. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.



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