

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORM AN EDUCATION
 COMPACT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 AND THE CITY OF HIALEAH**

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Following the blueprint established by the formation of the Education Compacts between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and other local general purpose governments such as the City of Coral Gables, the City of Miami, and Miami-Dade County, M-DCPS and the City of Hialeah will now join forces to bring together each organization's collective resources for the greater benefit of both the students and the citizens of Hialeah.

The City of Hialeah is situated in Northwest Miami-Dade County covering approximately 20 square miles, is one of the county's largest employers, and Florida's fifth-largest city with more than 236,000 residents. Culturally unique, Hialeah currently ranks highest among cities in the United States where a language other than English is the first language, with 91.9 percent speaking Spanish as a first language.

The City is home to many M-DCPS facilities including 16 elementary, 1 K-8 Center, 4 middle, 1 alternative high school and 2 senior high schools. The City of Hialeah has a renown Recreation and Community Services department which provides vital services to the community and students in its 15 public parks, which include 3 tennis centers, 5 public swimming pools, a Cultural Arts Center, an indoor gymnasium, a municipal auditorium and 10,000 seat stadium at Milander Park. Additionally, the City of Hialeah provides library services through a central library – The John F. Kennedy Public Library and four neighborhood e-Libraries, with 175,000 items and 100 public computers. In the past six years, the Hialeah Public Libraries have offered the community a myriad of programs including reading tutoring and FCAT preparation courses for children and young adults, ESOL and English conversation classes for adults, homework help, bilingual storytimes, parenting workshops, and computer literacy workshops.

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Recognizing the commitment of M-DCPS and the City of Hialeah to raise academic standards and the importance to Hialeah residents of quality-of-life issues of which strong schools form the backbone, the District and City seek to codify an Education Compact to build on past strengths, current programs and innovative ideas to enhance the lifelong educational experience of both students and City residents. Therefore, this Compact will serve as framework to engage the entire Hialeah community in the responsibility for ensuring the success of our children through excellent educational opportunities.

The Education Compact will be organized in three major areas:

- Improving academic programs;
- Community involvement; and
- Coordination of infrastructure and administrative planning efforts.

The Education Compact will encompass programs and/or projects that can be enriched, expedited, or better realized through collaborative efforts. The following items represent a potential list of programs and/or projects that the Compact will focus on.

Improving Academic Programs

- Strive for success in all Hialeah schools so that by the opening of the 2009 school year, all schools will achieve a grade of "B" or better.
- Fully prepare every Hialeah high school graduate to enter college or a career.
- Develop internship and mentorship programs for Hialeah students in accordance with the Superintendent's Secondary Reform Initiative.
- Create special interest schools to foster academic success, skill development and job readiness skills among all Hialeah youth.
- Expand the *Hialeah Reads!* community literacy initiative from the Hialeah Public Libraries into city parks and provide opportunities for stronger collaboration on academic and literacy support services between the schools and the City, especially during the City's *Literacy Month* in September.
- Develop educational clusters which include schools, parks and library personnel focused on finding practical solutions to real-world problems and to enhancing and coordinating educational services geographically.
- Develop a coordinated plan for enhancing early childhood education and outreach in Hialeah.

Community Involvement

- Develop an Education Roundtable to host regular meetings on educational issues with various community and business leaders and school/District staff.
- Focus on Hialeah parents with a city-based model of The Parent Academy using city facilities and other community sites.
- Implement an Executive PASS Program at all Hialeah schools.
- Expand and coordinate out-of-school learning opportunities for youth, from aftercare to school-to-work programs.
- Collaborate to foster local business support for educational programs, including employee programs to encourage parent participation in schools.

Coordination of Infrastructure and Administrative Planning Efforts

- Implement the District's Five-Year Capital Plan, which currently calls for a number of projects impacting schools serving Hialeah residents including plans for 6 new schools, 6 school additions, replacement of 2 schools and a major restoration of Hialeah Elementary.
- Explore joint-use and planning of schools, parks, libraries, recreation centers and future land use.
- Expanding opportunities for grant-writing partnerships to provide innovative educational program opportunities for Hialeah youth.
- Collaborate to better connect adults who are not in the workforce with M-DCPS' Adult Education/Vocational Training programs through the use of City resources, including One-Stop Centers.
- Collaborate with the City's Recreation and Community Services Department to implement prevention/intervention strategies regarding nutrition, physical activity levels, and health data in accordance with the District's wellness initiatives.
- Identify opportunities for cooperation on administrative issues to gain economies of scale in areas such as in marketing, staff training, emergency planning, transportation and procurement.

In addition to items identified above, the Education Compact envisions collaboration on legislative agendas in support of public education, regular briefings of the School Board and City Council, and the recruiting of high quality teachers.

The adoption of this Education Compact between the City of Hialeah and M-DCPS establishes a pact to continually strive to promote excellence and relevance in education in the City's schools and community at large by joining forces for the greater benefit of both the students and the citizens of Hialeah.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to form an Education Compact between The City of Hialeah and Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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