



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Superintendent of Schools
Alberto M. Carvalho

Miami-Dade County School Board

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December 3, 2020

Dear Commissioner:

As in previous years, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has formulated its state legislative agenda and will actively advocate for policy changes through the legislative process. The development of the program was initiated by the solicitation of proposals from School Board Members, district-level staff, school personnel, employee groups, municipal and county governments, and citizen groups.

As you know, COVID-19 struck this nation earlier this year and has impacted our lives drastically. Schools had to pivot to online education nearly overnight, whereby teaching is in whole or in part undertaken remotely and on digital platforms and the nation is experiencing a significant economic slowdown. State budgets have also been significantly impacted. As a result, it is anticipated that school districts' budgets will be impacted due to a precipitous drop in sales and income sales tax revenue. In fact, states are estimating two to 30 percent budget deficits, all of which will fall heavily on school districts, especially those that are greatly reliant on state aid. Florida is anticipated to be one of the hardest hit states due to its heavy reliance on travel and tourism as a major economic driver. In fact, Florida's Office of Economic and Demographic Research has projected a \$5.4 billion shortfall for the upcoming two fiscal years.

Additionally, the coronavirus is driving a steep and unprecedented increase in classroom costs. It is estimated that America's schools will need to spend \$245 billion more to roll out remote learning, expand food service for a growing number of low-income students, and extend the school year to make up for lost instructional days. Meanwhile, administrators are now referring to the many months of learning students missed between March (when schools started shutting down) and this fall as the "COVID-19 Slide."

To mitigate the impact to education and ensure that we continue to deliver a high-quality education to our students, we respectfully request your support of The School Board's top priorities for the upcoming 2021 legislative session by including these priorities as part of your legislative agenda for the upcoming session. The priorities include:

- Holding school district operational funding harmless by mitigating any FTE enrollment declines experienced by districts and any impact of state budget shortfalls by fully funding districts based on the 2019-2020 fourth FTE calculation

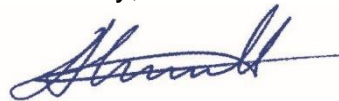
and minimally providing per student funding at 2020-2021 levels or \$7,793.01 (statewide) and \$7,941.46 for Miami-Dade;

- Waiving all sanctions related to the Florida Statewide Assessment Program, including but not limited to third grade promotion, end-of-course calculations, graduation test requirements, performance evaluations of instructional and administrative staff, and school and district grades;
- Continuing the Funding Compression and Hold Harmless Allocation formula established during the 2020 legislative session to address inequities of the current District Cost Differential calculation;
- Supporting funding to offer an extended school day and year beyond 180 days for all students to address learning loss as a result of required school closures due to COVID-19; and
- Continuing to invest in teacher salaries by continuing to fund the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation

On behalf of the students of Miami-Dade County, thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working with you again.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraidia R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305 995-2532.

Sincerely,



Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

AMC:ajo
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Attachment

cc: School Board Members
School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet