

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: RESEARCH THE FEASIBILITY OF COMBINING THE DISTRICT'S  
NUMEROUS AWARD CEREMONIES INTO A SINGLE EVENT  
AND/OR HOLDING AWARD CEREMONIES AND OTHER EVENTS  
DURING NON-SCHOOL HOURS IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE  
DISRUPTION TO STUDENTS AND STAFF**

Positive reinforcement is important in motivating students and employees to do their best. Awards are especially effective in this regard, and they should be encouraged. Problems arise, however, when award ceremonies take educators and students away from the tasks of teaching, administration and learning. I advocate measures to minimize time spent at such events and, thus, maximize time spent on these most important tasks. I propose, therefore, that the School Board direct the Superintendent to research and report back to the Board on the feasibility of combining the district's numerous award ceremonies into a single event and/or holding award ceremonies, workshops, retirement parties and other events during non-school hours, when practical. Resulting policy or procedural changes would be effective at the start of the 1999-2000 school year.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to research and report back to the Board on the feasibility of combining the district's numerous award ceremonies into a single event and/or holding award ceremonies, workshops, retirement parties and other events during non-school hours, when practical. Resulting policy or procedural changes would be effective at the start of the 1999-2000 school year.

MP:jjr