

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO HOLD A CONFERENCE SESSION ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS TOWARD NARROWING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP, FEBRUARY 10, 1999

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS:

- II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES**
- III - READING/LANGUAGE ARTS**
- VIII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND PRACTICES**
- IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

At its meeting of February 18, 1998, the School Board directed the Superintendent to conduct a study of the barriers which work against the narrowing of the achievement gap and to analyze existing and proposed strategies designed to deal with this problem. The first phase of this assignment was completed in June 1998, at which time a preliminary report, Narrowing the Achievement Gap, was submitted to the Board.

In order to achieve the School Board mandate, an Ad Hoc Narrowing the Achievement Gap Task Force was created. The main focus of this Ad Hoc Task Force has been to: (1) review longitudinal academic achievement data which have been collected in recent years, both locally and nationally, to identify the major areas of achievement gap of minority students; (2) identify factors believed to be inhibitors of progress among diverse groups of students; (3) review for effectiveness current programs and strategies being implemented locally and nationally; (4) propose new programs and/or strategies to address the identified inhibitors to progress; and (5) make overall recommendations that would lead to the narrowing of the achievement gap between minority and non-minority students.

The requested February 10 conference session will serve as a public forum where the Board may consider current student achievement data and discuss the final report of the Ad Hoc Narrowing the Achievement Gap Task Force.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to hold a conference session on student achievement and progress toward narrowing the achievement gap, February 10, 1999, at 10:00 a.m.

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