

March 16, 1999

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ADDRESS THE FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING GEOMETRY FOR GRADUATION BEGINNING WITH THE NINTH GRADE CLASS OF 2000-2001 AND PROVIDE A REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE ALGEBRA I REQUIREMENT.**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Pupil Progression Plan requires that students successfully complete Algebra I by the end of grade 9. Following completion of Algebra I the recommended sequence includes Geometry, Algebra II and Pre-Calculus. The State of Florida requires that students complete three years of mathematics, including Algebra I, and will add passage of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) as a graduation requirement.

The 10<sup>th</sup>-grade FCAT includes a significant number of items for which knowledge of geometry and data analysis is essential for successful responses. The test addresses the geometry strand of the Sunshine State Standards, especially on the short- and extended-response questions, which are weighed more heavily on the test. Geometry instruction will greatly enhance the potential for M-DCPS' students to pass the FCAT.

In its report "Every Child Mathematically Proficient: An Action Plan" the Learning First Alliance, a consortium of 12 national education associations, endorses a challenging K-12 mathematics curriculum that requires mastery of Algebra I and Geometry. The report portrays Algebra I and Geometry as powerful gateways to post-secondary education and key jobs.

It is recommended that the Superintendent study and report on the feasibility of a Geometry requirement for graduation. The report should describe the impact of the Algebra I requirement on student passing and graduation rates, present Geometry enrollment, Geometry passing rates, and teacher certification. The Superintendent's report would be the prelude to the Board's consideration of adding Geometry as a graduation requirement.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ :**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to investigate the impact of the Algebra I requirement on students' FCAT scores, the feasibility of a Geometry requirement for graduation and submit its findings and recommendations in a report for Board consideration.

REVISED