

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO UPDATE THE REFUGEE EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN, TO ANALYZE THE IMPACT OF THE NEW WAVE OF IMMIGRANT STUDENTS ON THE FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT TEST (FCAT), AND REVISE THE FCAT ENHANCEMENT PLAN AS NEEDED**

Based on information provided by local and national sources, including the media, this year appears to be ripe for a major immigration crisis coming from different parts of Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Inasmuch as there appears to be turmoil in different countries such as Colombia and Cuba, the South Florida community will be vulnerable to large waves of new immigrants.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a Refugee Emergency Contingency Plan as part of its procedures. It is requested that at this time, this plan be updated and ready for implementation in case an emergency needs to be declared.

At the same time, the number one priority for this district is the improvement of student achievement, and the improvement of overall test scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). It is important that staff analyze the new immigrant student academic background to determine possible impact on schools based on Florida's High-Quality Education System, formerly known as Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability. The analysis should not be limited to level of English language proficiency but also level of academic preparation in the home language.

Based on the educational data collected on the new immigrant students, staff should revise and/or incorporate into the district's Comprehensive Student Achievement/FCAT Enhancement Plan strategies to deal with the new wave of immigrant students.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. revise and update the Refugee Emergency Contingency Plan;
2. analyze the possible impact of new immigrant students on the classification of schools based on Florida's High-Quality Education System; and
3. incorporate strategies to deal with the educational needs of the new immigrant students in the district's Comprehensive Student Achievement/FCAT Enhancement Plan.