

Roger C. Cuevas, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2000 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

The attached 2000 State and Federal Legislative Programs have been compiled from responses and recommendations solicited by Legislative and Labor Relations from School Board Members, the Superintendent and staff, interested citizen groups and community agencies, and employee organizations.

The workpapers form the nucleus of the School Board's 2000 Legislative Programs. The October 20, 1999 final adoption date will enable staff to move ahead in securing legislative sponsors, if necessary, for the proposed bills so they may be filed and presented at legislative committee meetings.

It is anticipated that the Board may be asked to consider additional recommendations which may be amended into the program prior to the opening of and during the 2000 Legislative Session.

The recommended legislation falls into the following major sections:

PRIORITIES:

- Funding
- School Safety
- Education
- School Readiness
- Economic Development
- Extended School Year

ADDITIONAL ISSUES:

- Education
- Other Funding
- Facilities
- Business Management/Legal

Copies of the 2000 State and Federal Legislative Programs will be placed on file in the Citizen Information Center and the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. establish as its number one priority for the 2000 Legislative Session the recommended core financial provisions of FEFP;
2. select no more than five additional proposals as priority items;
3. authorize the Superintendent to formulate its final 2000 State and Federal Legislative Programs;
4. continue to participate in the South Florida Consortium of School Boards and select a member to serve as the Board's representative; and
5. continue to participate in the Citizens' Coalition for Public Schools and select a member to serve as the Board's representative.

PRIORITIES

● FUNDING ●

The Florida Education Finance Program should:

- Allocate funds based upon actual **WEIGHTED FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT (FTE)** student;
- Develop the **BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION (BSA)** based on a budgetary analysis;
- Include **PROGRAM WEIGHTS**;
- Reimburse **EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)** at actual district enrollment;
- Compensate districts for **HIGHER COST-OF-LIVING**; and
- Continue the **EQUALIZING FEATURES** of the Required Local Effort Millage levy.

● SCHOOL SAFETY ●

Increase **SAFE SCHOOLS FUNDING** to ensure a safe learning environment for students.

● EDUCATION ●

Modify HB 751 to provide schools **CREDIT FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT** on statewide assessments.

● SCHOOL READINESS ●

Establish a **UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN** program for all four-year-olds.

● ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ●

Foster economic development by maintaining the **CURRENT DUAL DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR POST SECONDARY PROGRAMS**.

● EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR ●

Provide funding to **EXTEND THE SCHOOL YEAR** for all D and F schools to improve student performance.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

● EDUCATION ●

Expand the **SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** to include representation of parents of students with disabilities.

Maintain **CURRENT DELIVERY SYSTEM** by the schools districts **OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**.

Modify HB 751 to:

- Require districts to use **CHOICE PLANS** to manage the exodus from "F" schools to "C" or better schools;
- Exempt all **DROP OUT PREVENTION CENTERS**;
- Allow **ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH GRADERS** to enroll in second chance schools; and
- Remove **SUSPENSION RATES** as a performance data indicator for schools.

● OTHER FUNDING ●

Allocate state funding for additional elementary **SCHOOL COUNSELORS**.

Appropriate tobacco settlement funds for **SCHOOL NURSES**.

Restore **DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM WEIGHTS**.

Provide for continuous funding for **ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES FOR THE ELDERLY**.

Focus public school funding on:

- **IMPROVING TEACHER SALARIES**;
- maintaining **FLEXIBILITY OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION CATEGORICAL**; and
- providing funding for the most **IMPOVERISHED SCHOOLS**.

● OTHER FUNDING (continued) ●

Appropriate incentive funds to districts to construct additional **K-1 INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE** to progressively meet the legislative goal of one teacher for 20 or fewer pupils in those grade levels.

Replace any loss in **DISCRETIONARY LOTTERY FUNDS** with General Revenue funds.

Allocate **PECO** funds among public schools, community colleges and universities based on 1997-98 percentages.

Discontinue **EARMARKING DISTRICT FUNDS** in the General Appropriations Act for specific community-based organizations.

Allocate non-recurring General Revenue funds for **INSERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS**.

Modify the allocation ratio for **CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICES (CO & D's)** funds from 23 to 18 to reflect current pupil-teacher ratios.

Permit school districts to engage in **CERTAIN LEASE TRANSACTIONS WITH PRIVATE INVESTORS** under current federal tax law and regulations.

Replace **IMPACT FEES** with another source of funding.

● FACILITIES ●

Amend Florida Statutes to allow the use of **PERFORMANCE-BASED PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS** as construction delivery methods in selecting **JOB ORDER CONTRACTING**.

● BUSINESS MANAGEMENT/ LEGAL ●

Amend the statutory **DEFINITION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**.

Authorize a **SMALL-BUSINESS SET-ASIDE** to foster economic development.

Provide for confidentiality in **REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS** similar to those provided for discussing pending litigation.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

As the 106th Congress commences its final year, we urge that it renew its commitment to our nation's children by re-investing in public education. Providing the best possible public education for all students is essential to the future of our economy and democratic society. Strong levels of federal investment in education are critical to promoting economic competitiveness and providing equal education opportunities for students.

The Federal Government, through the Congress and Executive Branch, should:

- ▶ Maintain support for the **ENTRANT/REFUGEE TARGETED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**, currently funded, and expand the categories of refugee/newcomer students enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools as a result of federal immigration/foreign policies, including the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Welfare Reform).
- ▶ Support any **SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVES** that would subsidize school districts for new construction, renovation or repair of the nation's schools. Implement such initiatives with maximum flexibility regarding the type of debt financing and permit the state to determine the disbursement method for non-high-priority funds. Additionally, increase funding for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) program which enable interest free loans to be secured by eligible school districts.
- ▶ Support the **COUNCIL OF GREAT CITIES SCHOOLS URBAN EDUCATION PLAN** for action at the national, state and local levels to secure assistance for urban education in the nation's 50 urban school districts.
- ▶ Support **BLOCK GRANT FUNDING** being dispersed directly to the school district rather than through the State ensuring school districts do not receive less federal monies.
- ▶ Support digital conversion of MDCPS' owned television and radio station WLRN TV/FM 91.3, and the digital conversion of MDCPS IFS (Instructional Fixed Signal) for use in **DISTANCE LEARNING** services to schools, homes and business.
- ▶ Support continued funding for the **UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND PROGRAM (E-Rate)** which is designed to provide schools and libraries with affordable access to state of the art networking and telecommunications technology.
- ▶ Reauthorize the **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)** which includes; Title I, Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet Higher Standards; Title II, Eisenhower Professional Development; Title III, Technology for Education; Title IV, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities; Title V, Promoting Equity; Title VI, Innovative Education Programs; Title VII, Bilingual Education; Title X, Programs of National Significance; Title XIII, Support/Assistance to Improve Education.
- ▶ Allocate any available **SURPLUS OF FEDERAL FUNDS** to enhance education funding.
- ▶ Continue funding for **SCHOOL-TO-WORK** beyond the year 2000.
- ▶ Support Miami-Dade County in its efforts in securing funding for Miami-Dade as an **EMPOWERMENT ZONE**.
- ▶ Support the National School Board's Association on obtaining increased funding for **IDEA** and flexibility for school districts to deal with discipline cases.
- ▶ Support legislation easing tax restrictions on school district **DEBT ADVANCE REFUNDINGS**.
- ▶ Increase funding for Title I and amend Title I/Part A of ESEA to allow for **DECENTRALIZED BUDGETARY DECISION MAKING** and eliminate the need for district micro-management to achieve individual school statistical comparability.