

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Member

**SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN
CENSUS RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE CENSUS 2000
AWARENESS**

The United States Constitution mandates a census to be held every ten years. Results of the census are used for many purposes. Among them:

- By the federal government to allocate \$100 billion in federal funds annually for community programs and services including education programs, housing and community development, health-care services for the elderly, job training and many more.
- By state and local governments for planning and allocating funds for new school construction, public buildings such as libraries, highway safety and public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, location of police and fire departments and many other projects.
- By community organizations for developing social services programs, community action projects, senior lunch programs and child-care centers.
- By businesses to decide where to locate factories, shopping centers, movie theaters, banks and offices – leading to the creation of jobs in Miami-Dade County.
- By the United States Congress to determine how many seats our state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Likewise, states use the numbers to allocate seats in their legislature.

According to federal statistics, the census of 1990 overlooked more than two million children, many of them economically disadvantaged and in need of government help. It is estimated that in Miami-Dade County approximately 5% of the population were not counted. This resulted in a loss of billions of dollars to our community. As such, it is our responsibility to increase awareness of Census 2000 activities and to educate students, parents of school-age children and other adults about the importance of the census.

To this end, the Division of Social Sciences, Bureau of Elementary, Secondary, and Workforce Development Education, will be distributing instructional materials to all schools and the Board is asked to join in promoting Census 2000 awareness.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, join in promoting Census 2000 awareness and direct the Superintendent to encourage all Miami-Dade County Public schools to participate in census-related activities promoting Census 2000 awareness.