

Office of School Board Members  
Board Meeting of December 8, 1999

December 7, 1999

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXISTING LOOPING SCHEDULE PROGRAMS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND REPORT TO THE BOARD THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THESE PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THE PERSONALIZATION OF EDUCATION**

School boards are accountable for the effectiveness of the public school system they serve. Researching innovative instructional techniques, such as "looping," or the practice of advancing a teacher from one grade level to the next along with their class, increases the effectiveness of our school system by seeking better ways to educate children.

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The unfortunate random acts of violence in Texas, Columbine and Georgia have left the education community searching for measures to ensure that such disasters never happen again. Experts tell us that no school system is immune to such tragedies. Indeed, our own Miami-Dade County students report that disenfranchised students in their own schools have profiles resembling those of the boys that carried out the Columbine massacre.

Educational journals have devoted entire issues to what is termed "personalized" education to prevent violence-prone students from committing violent acts. My office recently conducted a symposium attended by ninety M-DCPS teachers. In both the recent literature and at the teachers' conference, reference has been made to the effectiveness of looping as a scheduling strategy to increase the personalization and effectiveness of teaching.

A future in which teachers feel their input is valued and in which policies stem from research will go a long way in assuring the public that this Board is accountable to the people we serve.

**ACTION PROPOSED**

**BY DR. MARTA PEREZ:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to study the effectiveness of existing looping schedule programs in M-DCPS and report to the Board the feasibility of expanding these programs.

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