

Roger C. Cuevas, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF APPLYING TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ENTER INTO A PERFORMANCE CONTRACT FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO BE ESTABLISHED AS A CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Florida Statutes, Section 228.058, authorized a Charter School Pilot Program enabling the State Board of Education to enter into a performance contract with up to six school districts for the purpose of establishing them as charter school districts. The stated purpose of this pilot program was to examine a new relationship between the State Board of Education and school districts that would produce significant improvements in student achievement and school management, while complying with constitutional requirements assigned to each entity.

A charter school district is a school district which has submitted and the state board has approved a charter proposal that exchanges statutory and rule compliance for agreement to meet performance goals in the proposal. The charter school district status, if granted, shall be chartered for three years at the end of which the performance shall be evaluated.

Florida Statutes, Section 228.056, provides that charter schools would be exempt from all statutes of the Florida School Code, except those specifically applying to charter schools; those pertaining to the provision of services to students with disabilities; those pertaining to civil rights relating to discrimination; and those pertaining to student health, safety, and welfare.

Currently, two school districts, Hillsborough and Volusia, have applied and achieved charter school district status. Therefore, authorization is sought to explore the feasibility of applying for Charter School District status for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida explore the feasibility of applying to the State Board of Education to enter into a performance contract establishing the District as a charter school district.