

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent for Education

SUBJECT: REPORT - STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION

COMMITTEE: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Each year, beginning with the 1972-1973 school year, the Division of Social Sciences has coordinated student voter registration in the District's senior high schools. This activity directly reinforces the School Board's commitment to citizenship education. Eligible students are registered to vote by Miami-Dade County Public Schools social science teachers through their American Government and Economics classes. Materials, supplies, and general support are provided by the Miami-Dade County Elections Department. This year, the Close Up Foundation participated by providing all American Government and Economics teachers with a video and teaching guide entitled, *First Vote*. The video was developed post-September 11th and is a powerful motivator in teaching students about the importance of their vote. Teachers were encouraged to use this video to introduce the 2002 Voter Registration drive in their classes. Additionally, as part of a national pilot program, staff from the Close Up Foundation, Inc., observed the actual student voter registration process at various school sites in the District.

The total number of students who registered to vote during the 2001-2002 school year was 11,204. Since the 1972-1973 school year, 206,948 students have been registered to vote by social science teachers.

In order to register to vote during the 2001-2002 school year, students must have been:

- at least 17 years of age as of May 15, 2002;
- citizens of the United States;
- residents of Miami-Dade County; and,
- able to provide their Social Security number.

Factors which may have prevented students from registering to vote include: prior registration, religious conviction, felony conviction, and mental incapacity.

Attached is a compilation of the number of senior high school students who have registered to vote since the 1972-1973 school year. In addition to results for the 2001-2002 school year, information is provided regarding each school's voter registration percentage for the previous school year. Each school's voter registration report is validated by the principal's signature.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the 2001-2002 Student Voter Registration Report.