

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 03-52 OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTING EQUAL ACCESS TO FLORIDA'S
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR ALL
IMMIGRANT STUDENTS**

COMMITTEE: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a large population of immigrant students that enriches our classrooms and community. Many of these children are undocumented and do not immediately qualify for legal-immigration status; however, they are entitled to an education and many succeed in earning a Florida high school diploma.

Many of these diligent students want to pursue a post-secondary education but are stopped in their pursuits because the state requires them to pay out-of-state tuition. This tuition costs nearly four times more than the in-state tuition charged to Florida residents and is unaffordable to most of these students and their families. These students and families work hard and contribute to state's economy. To deny them equal access to educational opportunities only stifles their pursuit of a better life and discourages them to reach their full potential as members of our society.

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida should support Florida legislators' plans to file bills that would allow all immigrant students who earn a Florida high school diploma or equivalent to pay in-state tuition to attend Florida institutions of higher learning.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 03-52 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting equal access to Florida's institutions of higher learning for all immigrant students.

MP:jam

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-52
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING
EQUAL ACCESS TO FLORIDA'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR
ALL IMMIGRANT STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a large population of immigrant students that enriches our classrooms and our community; and

WHEREAS, because of various circumstances, many of these students are undocumented and do not immediately qualify for legal-immigration status; and

WHEREAS, as a public school system, we are obligated to educate these children and prepare them for post-secondary education or training; and

WHEREAS, many of these deserving students want to continue their education and attend Florida institutions of higher learning, but are dissuaded because they are charged out-of-state tuition fees which are nearly four times more expensive than resident fees; and

WHEREAS, Florida legislators seek to initiate and pass bills that support equal access to Florida's post-secondary institutions for all immigrant students; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida has traditionally supported measures encouraging all Florida students to reach their full potential as members of our society;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution 03-52 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, supporting equal access to Florida's institutions of higher learning for all immigrant students.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent record of this Board.

Presented this nineteenth day of November, A.D. 2003

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary