

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

SUBJECT: ENHANCING CHARACTER & CIVIC EDUCATION

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

Building a student's ethical and moral character is necessary for active citizenship in a democratic society. This formative foundation is just as important as math, science, reading or writing, to a child's positive development.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has always been at the forefront of character and civic education programs and has led the state since adopting its core values and corresponding curriculum in 1995.

Nevertheless, as evidenced by a general decline in student behavior, there is a great need for enhancing our curriculum and building an active commitment by all stakeholders, including principals and teachers at our schools. Such a change enjoys broad-based support among the local community.

As done when initially launching character education curriculum, local resources should be utilized when analyzing new strategies for teacher training, stakeholder compliance, parental activities and adapting existing curriculum to support FCAT preparation activities.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. FRANK J. BOLAÑOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to develop strategies to enhance Civic and Character Education and report back to the School Board by May, 2004 with recommendations on, but not limited to, the following:

1. Increased teacher training
2. Audit of school-based curriculum offerings
3. Parental training activities for home
4. Adapt Character Education curriculum to support FCAT preparation activities
5. Re-convene a workgroup with local experts to further explore other enhancements