

Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
FLORIDA DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY AS AUTHORIZED  
IN FLORIDA STATUTE 1001.42(19) AND AUTHORIZE THE  
SUPERINTENDENT TO PLAN, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE  
*DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN***

**COMMITTEE:    EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

The Florida Legislature and the Florida Board of Education have approved bills and policies that have major operational implications for Miami-Dade County Public Schools for the 2004-2005 school year.

The 2004 legislature passed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill (CS/SB) 364 and 354. CS/SB 364 amends the existing law (SS.1002.20 and 1008.25, F.S.) that requires all elementary schools to assess the reading ability of each K-3 student, provide parents with notification of any reading deficiency, implement a detailed Academic Improvement Plan (AIP), and provide intensive reading instruction, as well as, other requirements specific to retained grade three students. CS/SB 354, Public School Educational Instruction includes the Middle Grades Reform Act. The intent of this legislation is that middle grade students receive rigorous academic instruction through challenging curricula, delivered by highly qualified teachers in schools with outstanding leadership, in which parents are engaged and informed.

On June 15, 2004, the State Board of Education approved the Assistance Plus District Action Plans for F and repeating F schools for the 2004-2005 school year. The plans direct school districts to take responsibility for providing quality instructors and resources to the schools most in need, to develop policies to end social promotion, and to take various other actions to ensure the improved performance of all students.

The Assistance Plus District Action Plans delineate six new requirements including that districts declare a state of emergency, and that individual student success plans be provided for each student attending an F school.

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Florida Statute 1001.42(19) provides that school boards, “may declare an emergency in cases in which one or more schools in the district are failing or are in danger of failing and negotiate special provisions of its contracts with the appropriate bargaining units to free these schools from contract restrictions that limit the school’s ability to implement programs and strategies needed to improve student performance.”

In order to address the aforementioned mandates, the *District Literacy Plan* will be planned, developed and implemented. The finalized district’s plan to address student performance will outline proposed actions to improve student achievement and comply with the state mandates. The plan will address the following areas: curricula, assessment, instructional materials, personnel, coordination of resources, and staff development.

The *District Literacy Plan* will be transmitted to School Board Members when finalized.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. declare a state of emergency as authorized in Florida statute 1001.42(19); and
2. authorize the Superintendent to plan, develop and implement the *District Literacy Plan*.