

Mercedes Toural, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED PROMULGATION OF NEW SCHOOL BOARD
RULE: FINAL READING 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 CENTERS**

**COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND
PERSONNEL SERVICES**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, announced on June 16, 2004, its intention to promulgate new School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers, by providing procedures for approving the conversion of schools to K-8 Centers, at the meeting of August 18, 2004.

The Notice of Intended Action was published in the *Miami Daily Business Review* on June 21, 2004, posted in various places for public information, and mailed to various organizations representing persons affected by the new rule and to individuals requesting notification.

The time to request a hearing or protest the adoption of this rule has elapsed.

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, the new rule is presented to The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, for adoption and authorization to file this rule in the official records of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Attached are the Notice of Intended Action and the proposed new rule.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopt new School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers, and authorize the Superintendent to file the rule with The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to be effective August 18, 2004.

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on June 16, 2004 its intention to promulgate new School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers, at its meeting of August 18, 2004.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To establish a process for converting schools to K-8 Centers.

SUMMARY: To establish as Board Rule a process for establishing K-8 Centers which includes steps, timelines, and approval levels.

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: 1001.41(1)(2); 1001.42(22); 1001.43(10), F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC: 1001.41(3); 1001.42(9)(b)(3)(7)(8); 1001.43(2)(f)(4)(5); 1002.20(6)(a)

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING OF August 18, 2004, which begins at 1:00 p.m., in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), F.S., must do so in writing by July 13, 2004, to the Superintendent of Schools, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED RULE is available to the public for inspection and copying at cost in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Mr. Frank J. Bolaños
Date: June 2, 2004

Instruction – Elementary and Secondary**K-8 CENTERS**

In the interest of broadening public school choice, Miami-Dade County Public Schools provides K-8 Centers, which are configured to include students from kindergarten through grade eight, as an alternative to the traditional elementary and middle level configuration. A K-8 Center middle grade experience is not meant to be the equivalent of a traditional middle school environment. The K-8 Center offers a streamlined curriculum for grades six through eight that emphasizes the core academic subjects, but limits the possible range of electives, honors, and high school level courses available at the traditional middle school. Physical education and athletics are also limited. The parents of all students enrolled in grade five at an established K-8 Center shall choose to allow their children to continue at the K-8 Center for grades six through eight or to enroll them in the traditional middle school to which they would otherwise have been assigned.

The conversion of a school campus to a K-8 Center should be made primarily for the purpose of improving educational services, including the relief of overcrowding, the prevention of enrollment decline at the middle school level, the provision of curricular continuity, the provision of optimum academic and social support, and such factors that might be unique to a particular conversion.

The process for proposing conversions of schools to K-8 Centers shall consist of the submission of a written proposal, analysis of the proposal by a K-8 Center Technical Committee (which will include a district-level study of facilities-related and curricular aspects of the conversion, if necessary), review by a K-8 Center Administrative Committee, and recommendation to the School Board.

I. Proposal Submission

A. Proposals for conversion shall be initiated by the Educational Excellence School Advisory Committee (EESAC), Parent Teacher Association/Parent Teacher Student Association (PTA/PTSA), or the Assistant Superintendent of the ACCESS Center ~~assistant superintendent~~.

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6-16-04

B. Proposals must adhere to the Miami-Dade County K-8 Center Application Format and must, at minimum, address the following factors: initiating entity (source of the request); rationale for the request; current school enrollment and capacity; projected increase in student enrollment with the added grades; projected impact on the enrollment and diversity of the neighboring schools; curricular provisions, including the method by which parents will choose between the two middle grades options; staffing implications; school site acreage and current usage; and evidence of community support.

- C. Proposals must be received in the appropriate administrative office no later than 4:30 p.m. on or before the second Tuesday of September for consideration during the fall review process and no later than 4:30 p.m. on or before the second Tuesday of January for consideration during the spring review process. Proposals reviewed in the fall will be considered at or prior to the December School Board Meeting, and those reviewed in the spring will be considered at or prior to the April School Board Meeting, unless extenuating circumstances intervene. The proposal for any conversion proposed to take place in a given school year must be submitted during the first submission cycle of the previous year or earlier.

II. Proposal Review

- A. A K-8 Center Technical Committee shall examine all proposals and, by majority vote, take one of two actions on each proposal. It may request a district-level study of facilities-related and curricular aspects of the proposed conversion, or it may forward the proposal to the next level of review without additional analysis.

The K-8 Center Technical Committee shall be comprised of the senior administrators of the following areas, or their designees, who must also be administrators:

Curriculum and Instruction;
ACCESS Center in which the school is located;
Attendance Boundary Committee;
Civil Rights and Diversity Compliance;
Evaluation and Research;
Transportation;
Business Operations;
Employment and Staffing; and
Food and Nutrition.

Additional Committee membership will include parent representatives from the following:

PTA/PTSA at the initiating school; and
PTA/PTSA at the affected middle school.

The Assistant Superintendent, of School Choice and Parental Options, will act as chair of the K-8 Center Technical Committee, and the Assistant Superintendent of the ACCESS Center Assistant Superintendent in which the school is located will present the proposal.

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6-16-04

- B. A K-8 Center Administrative Committee shall review each proposal, along with the district-level study requested by the K-8 Center Technical Committee, if applicable, and, by majority vote, make a recommendation for acceptance or denial of the proposal to the Superintendent of Schools. At least one (1) representative of the initiating entity must be available to answer questions from the K-8 Center Administrative Committee when the proposal is reviewed.

The K-8 Center Administrative Committee shall be comprised of the following persons, or their equivalent:

- ~~Chief Education Officer and Deputy Superintendent of Schools,~~ Curriculum and Instruction, or designee, who will act as chair;
- Chief Business Officer, or designee;
- Chief Financial Officer, or designee;
- Chief Personnel Officer, or designee;
- ~~Associate Superintendent, ACCESS Centers, or designee;~~
- Associate Superintendent, Instructional Operations, or designee;
- Associate Superintendent, Management Operations, or designee;
- Assistant Superintendent of the ACCESS Center in which the school is located, or designee;
- Principal from an established K-8 Center;
- One representative from the Attendance Boundary Committee;
- One representative from the Diversity Equity and Excellence Advisory Committee;
- One representative from the Schools of Choice Advisory Committee;
- One member of the United Teachers of Dade, selected by the Executive Vice President of the United Teachers of Dade; and
- President of the County Council of PTA, or designee.

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- C. All proposals shall be submitted to the School Board, by the Superintendent of Schools with a recommendation for acceptance or denial.
- D. The School Board must, by a majority vote, approve or deny each proposal that it receives.
- E. If the proposal is denied, the School Board shall direct the Superintendent of Schools to articulate in writing the specific reasons based upon good cause supporting the denial of the proposal. If a proposal is denied, the originator may resubmit a revised proposal to the appropriate administrative office for review during subsequent submission cycles.
- F. An approved proposal will be referred to the School Site Planning and Construction (SSPC) Committee for inclusion in the next regular cycle of

facilities planning as outlined in School Board Rule 6Gx13- 2C-1.083 Section (II), Educational Facilities Planning, Site Selection and Acquisition, and Construction.

- G. Once the construction is completed, and prior to the facility being occupied by the additional grade level(s), the K-8 Center will be included in the Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) process for a grade configuration change.

Specific Authority: 1001.41(1)(2); 1001.42(22); 1001.43(10) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 1001.41(3); 1001.42(9)(b)(3)(7)(8); 1001.43(2)(f)(4)(5); 1002.20(6)(a) F.S.

History

New:

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA