

August 27, 2004

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ESTABLISH A CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AND ENSURE THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER EDUCATION IS STRESSED IN EACH SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

COMMITTEE: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

A recent Miami-Dade County grand jury report addressed school safety and provided recommendations as to how to improve school safety. One of the recommendations was to establish a code of student conduct for our pre-k and kindergarten students. The grand jury asserts that engraining this information in the students at an early age will increase the chances that they will observe and honor their responsibilities and take steps to make sure that their environment at school will be a safe one.

As evidenced by a general decline in student behavior, there is a clear and urgent need for an increased emphasis on character education. Including character education in each school's mission statement will serve as a reminder to each student of the importance embodied in the core values. Such recommendations by the grand jury deserve consideration by the board.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Direct the Superintendent to

1. Establish a Code of Student Conduct for Pre-K and Kindergarten students
2. Ensure that the importance of character education is stressed in each school's mission statement

D-5