

Ms. Ana Rivas Logan, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO REVIEW CURRENT TESTING PROCESSES AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO CONDENSE THE DISTRICT'S ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed, it is necessary to provide teachers with the time to teach and students with the time to learn. One of the ways to accomplish this is to make sure that teachers are not unnecessarily burdened by processes and requirements that reduce teaching time.

The ever increasing number of school-level, region center, local, state and national tests administered in the district, and the amount of time consumed in test-taking activities occur at the expense of instructional time. While it is necessary to assess the progress of our students and schools, testing should be a means to target instruction and not an end unto itself.

Students do not learn from testing; they learn from teaching. Therefore, each test to be administered in our classrooms (national, state, district, region center, and school-level tests) should be examined with the following considerations:

- Does the test provide meaningful information in a timely manner to assist the classroom teacher in targeting instruction?
- Is the test itself or the resulting test information mandated by state or national law (e.g., FCAT) or School Board policy?
- Are the state or national law or School Board policy mandates for which the test is being administered strictly interpreted or are testing mandates being "over-interpreted" or "over-implemented"?
- Is there one test that could satisfy multiple mandates or information needs (e.g., the use of an end of year test as both an outcome measure of achievement and a placement tool for the following school year)?
- Are there other non-testing measures that could satisfy mandates or informational needs?

B-3

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
ANA RIVAS LOGAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to review testing processes and develop a plan to be presented at the May 18, 2005 meeting. This plan will identify the key steps to be undertaken to review and streamline current assessment programs, including implementation timelines and projected cost considerations.