

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT
TO INVOLVE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN
AN EMERGENCY DISTRICT-WIDE MONETARY
COLLECTION SPONSORED BY THE UNITED WAY TO
SUPPORT RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE
CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN SOUTH
ASIA**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

The slogan of Miami-Dade County Public Schools is, "Giving our students the world." To deliver on this promise, the District must ensure that our students understand their responsibility to give back to the world when circumstances demand civic and charitable involvement. The record-setting participation of M-DCPS students in the annual United Way campaign indicates that they are learning this important lesson.

The catastrophic loss of life and property during the earthquake and tsunami that struck South Asia in December has caught the attention of our students and staff along with the rest of the world. This is undoubtedly a "teachable and reachable" moment for our students. History is being made daily, and it behooves the District to respond with compassion immediately to help our neighbors in Asia.

As such, the District has asked its partner the United Way to create an opportunity for monetary donations specifically to ease the suffering and begin the rebuilding in South Asia. Pursuant to Board Rule 6Gx13- 1C-1.15, the Superintendent will extend the dates of the United Way campaign to facilitate this collection. In addition, the Office of Social Sciences will provide classroom resources which teachers and administrators can use to educate students about the world events unfolding. The District has reached out to the county PTA/PTSA to access parent networks throughout the county. Our union partners also have been asked to join us in this effort.

The proposed monetary collection would take place at all locations from January 20 through February 17, 2005. Individual participation would be voluntary. Implementation would occur as follows:

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1. Students, employees, and parents will be encouraged to bring cash, or checks made out in the name of the respective schools, to be deposited in the schools' Internal Fund accounts. Employees in participating non-school sites will make the checks payable directly to the United Way of Miami-Dade. This straight collection of monetary donations is not considered a fundraising activity; no sales or activities of any kind will take place. Student clubs will be allowed to use available funds in their respective Internal Fund club accounts to make donations for this cause.
2. No later than February 23, 2005, participating locations will transmit monies collected to the Office of Community Services. These funds will be sent to the United Way of Miami-Dade, which will forward funds to the appropriate national and international relief effort. Specific instructions will be sent under separate cover to all work locations regarding collections.

Contingent upon Board approval, the Office of Community Services, along with the Office of Public Relations will coordinate activities related to Miami-Dade Public Schools' participation in this collection.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent of Schools to involve Miami-Dade County Public Schools in a voluntary emergency district-wide monetary collection sponsored by the United Way from January 20 through February 17, 2005.

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