

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FINANCIAL IMPACT TO THE DISTRICT OF PROHIBITING THE SALE OF SWEETENED CARBONATED BEVERAGES TO STUDENTS ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Research indicates that good nutrition and physical activity for students can lead to better academic performance, higher test scores and fewer behavioral problems as well as establishing lifelong healthy habits. One of the most alarming health trends in the United States is the increase in childhood and adolescent obesity. Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) reveal that the prevalence of obesity among U.S. children 6-19 years of age tripled in the past 20 years, to slightly more than 16%. Obesity is a contributor to many preventable diseases that may be reduced by intervention in the school environment. In addition, sugar-sweetened beverages are cited as a contributing factor to obesity in children and soda consumption has almost doubled over the last 20 years.

At the April 14, 2004 School Board Meeting of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, the School Board authorized the acceptance of the report *Strategies, Initiatives and Actions Necessary to Create A Healthier School Environment In Nutrition And Physical Activity* (Agenda Item B-22). As part of the goals of the report, the School Board authorized the district to explore the possibility of substituting healthy alternatives for carbonated beverages sold on school grounds. The district has implemented nutritional standards for beverages and snack items sold in senior high student access vending machines and has reduced the prevalence of carbonated beverage machines by two-thirds.

The National Association of School Boards of Education includes the recommendation of an overall school environment that encourages students to make healthy food choices and recommends opportunities and encouragement for staff to model healthy habits as sample policies to encourage a healthy school environment. To support the continued efforts of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools to ensure a healthy school environment optimal for student achievement.

I am requesting a feasibility study to determine the financial impact to the district of prohibiting the sale of sweetened carbonated beverages to students on school campus during the school day.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study of the financial impact on the district of prohibiting the sale of sweetened carbonated beverages to students on the school campus during the school day.