

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO SUSPEND SCHOOL BOARD RULE 6Gx13- 5C-1.031, DRESS CODE, SECTION V, PART A, FOR A PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT A MANDATORY SCHOOL UNIFORM PROGRAM IN "F" SECONDARY SCHOOLS, SPECIFICALLY HOMESTEAD AND MIAMI EDISON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Scholarly research and professional literature on the correlation between school uniforms and student performance suggests that implementation of school uniforms leads to increased school safety, improved student behavior, and higher academic achievement among students. Further, mandatory school uniform programs often create a sense of identity and belonging among parents, students, faculty and staff of a school, which benefits the entire school community.

Given the positive impact school uniform programs have had on student achievement and classroom deportment at schools in school districts throughout the nation, including Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is proposed that the District create a pilot mandatory school uniform program at secondary schools receiving an "F" grade from the Florida Department of Education, specifically Miami Edison and Homestead senior high schools (Miami Central Senior High School already has adopted a mandatory uniform policy). The program, which will begin this school year, will be used to help accelerate high academic performance and encourage appropriate behavior among students. The introduction of mandatory school uniforms at "F" secondary schools such as Miami Edison and Homestead senior high schools will support the other education reform efforts at the schools approved by the Board.

A growing number of Miami-Dade public schools already have established school uniform programs, which have helped to create an appropriate academic environment for students and teachers, leading to greater emphasis on classroom instruction. Of the 15 high schools with mandatory uniform programs in place this year, 10 have state accountability grades of "C" or better.

This item does not appear in the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the agenda in order to respond immediately to concerns raised by parents at community meetings last week and to take steps quickly to support other changes being made at these two schools to improve academic performance.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, suspend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 5C-1.031, Dress Code, Section V, Part A, for a pilot program to implement a mandatory school uniform program at "F" secondary schools, specifically Homestead and Miami Edison senior high schools.

**Good Cause
A-9**