

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of December 14, 2005

December 7, 2005

Office of School Facilities  
Rose Diamond, Chief Facilities Officer

**SUBJECT:            PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SCHOOL BOARD RULE:  
                          INITIAL READING, 6Gx13- 6A- 1.48, K-8 CENTERS**

**COMMITTEE:        INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

At its meeting of October 19, 2005, the School Board directed the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings by amending School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers, as proposed by Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member, to ensure that as part of the initial facilities related analysis, a sufficiently detailed traffic analysis of the impact on neighboring communities is also conducted; and that such traffic impact analysis is shared and discussed with all the relevant stakeholders early on in the process, prior to submittal of the final recommendation on a proposed K-8 conversion to the School Board. The proposed rule amendments reflect the addition of these requirements, as part of the initial facilities related feasibility study, as well as some minor changes to administrative titles to comport with the current organizational structure, and suggested process improvements relating to District review of proposals for K-8 conversions.

Attached is the Notice of Intended Action and the proposed amended rule. Changes from the current rule are indicated by underscoring words to be added and ~~striking through~~ words to be deleted.

Authorization of the Board is requested for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the amendment of School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers.

**RECOMMENDED:**            That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers.

ARC:aj

**REVISED**  
**E-202**

## NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA announced on December 14, 2005, its intention to amend Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.48, K-8 Centers, at its meeting February 15, 2006.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed amendments is to ensure that the traffic impacts of any proposed K-8 conversion on the adjacent communities are thoroughly analyzed and discussed with all the relevant stakeholders, before a final recommendation is submitted to the School Board. In addition, the Rule is amended to include Schools of Choice in the initial proposal review process.

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SUMMARY: The intent of the proposed amendments is to improve the process to be used by K-8 conversion applicants and District staff in reviewing and making recommendations to the School Board of proposed K-8 conversions, and to ensure that membership of the relevant reviewing District committees accurately reflect the current organizational structure.

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: 1001.41(1)(2); 1001.42(22); 1001.43(10) F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC: 73.015; 73.091; 73.092; 112.313(1); 112.3143; 253.025(6)(b); 286.011; 1013.24; 1013.31; 1013.33; 1013.35; 1013.36; 1013.61

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF February 15, 2006, which begins at 1:00 p.m., in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), F.S., must do so in writing by January 11, 2006, to the Superintendent of Schools, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based (Section 286.0105, F.S.).

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED RULE is available to the public for inspection and copying at cost in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman  
Date: November 30, 2005

**Instruction – Elementary and Secondary****K-8 CENTERS**

In the interest of providing the best and most supportive environment for education, Miami-Dade County Public Schools offers K-8 Centers, which are configured to include students from kindergarten through grade eight, as well as the traditional elementary and middle level configuration. The K-8 Center offers a tightly aligned curriculum for grade six through eight students that may include, in addition to the traditional core academic subjects, required foreign language for all students and an integrated subject alignment infusing technology, career path skills, real world projects, ethics, and character development. The K-8 Center also offers an extensive safety net to ensure that all students are ready for the transition to ninth grade, including a support team for every child who will follow his or her progress from grades six through eight. A K-8 Center middle grade experience is not, however, meant to be the equivalent of a traditional middle school environment. The range of electives, honors, and high school level courses available at the traditional middle school may be limited at a K-8 Center because of the smaller number of students in grades six through eight. Physical education and athletics may also be limited. The parents of all students enrolled in grade five or six at an established K-8 Center shall choose to allow their children to continue at the K-8 Center or to enroll them in the traditional middle school that has been designated as an option.

The conversion of a school campus to a K-8 Center should be made primarily for the purpose of improving educational services, including the provision of curricular continuity, the provision of optimum academic and social support, the relief of overcrowding, and such factors that might be unique to a particular conversion.

Creation of K-8 Centers or conversions of schools to K-8 Centers may occur as follows:

- I. The Deputy for Curriculum and Instruction may plan such schools for the purpose of:
  - A. providing or extending a unique curricular program; or
  - B. providing equitable support for successful transition to senior high school across the District.
- II. The Chief Facilities Officer may plan such schools for the purpose of reducing overcrowding, meeting the demands of expected population growth, or providing equitable access to suitable facilities.
- III. A proposal for conversion may be initiated by a Regional Center, an Educational Excellence School Advisory Committee (EESAC), or a Parent Teacher Association/Parent Teacher Student Association (PTA/PTSA). The process for proposing conversions of schools to K-8 Centers shall begin with the submission of a completed feasibility worksheet to Specialized Programs – Schools of Choice (Schools of Choice). This worksheet shall be comprised of data on the

rationale for the request, current school enrollment and capacity, projected increase in student enrollment with the added grades, projected impact on the enrollment and diversity of the neighboring schools, and school site acreage and current usage. Concurrent with the review of the application(s) worksheets by Schools of Choice, the Office of School Facilities (Facilities), shall also review the application(s), specifically as it relates to the facility implications of the proposed conversion, including its standing within the district plan for such conversions and any anticipated traffic impact on the neighboring communities, as determined by a detailed traffic analysis.

If the reviews by both Schools of Choice and Facilities show the proposed conversion to a K-8 Center to be feasible, the entity that submitted the feasibility worksheet will be invited to develop a complete, written proposal to the respective Regional Center for review as detailed in Section III A. below. After a thorough evaluation of the each proposal, the Regional Superintendent shall attach a recommendation to approve or deny. Each proposal shall then be forwarded for analysis by the K-8 Center Technical Committee (which will include a district-level study of facilities-related and curricular aspects of the conversion, if necessary), review by the K-8 Center Administrative Committee, and recommendation to the School Board as detailed in Section III B. below. The following procedures for submission and review shall be followed.

#### A. Proposal Submission

1. Proposals must adhere to the Miami-Dade County K-8 Center Application Format and must, at minimum, address the following factors: curricular provisions, including the method by which parents will choose between the two middle grades options; staffing implications; initiating entity (source of the request); rationale for the request; current school enrollment and capacity; projected increase in student enrollment with the added grades; projected impact on the enrollment and diversity of the neighboring schools; school site acreage and current usage; and evidence of community support, including evidence that the community has had an opportunity to review and discuss the traffic impact analysis prepared in connection with the application for K-8 conversion, including the conclusions in that analysis and any traffic improvement options proposed therein, if applicable.
2. Proposals may be submitted to ~~School Choice and Parental Options~~ Schools of Choice at any time during the school year. Proposals reviewed in the fall will be considered at or prior to the December School Board Meeting, and those reviewed in the spring will be considered at or prior to the April School Board Meeting, unless extenuating circumstances intervene. The proposal for any conversion proposed to take place in a given school year must be submitted during the first submission cycle of the previous year or earlier.

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## B. Proposal Review

1. A K-8 Center Technical Committee shall examine all proposals and, by majority vote, ~~take one of two actions on each proposal. It may request a district-level study of facilities-related and curricular aspects of the proposed conversion, including its standing within the district plan for such conversions, or it may forward the~~ proposal to the next level of review without additional analysis with a recommendation to approve or deny the conversion. ] REVISED

The K-8 Center Technical Committee shall be comprised of the senior administrators of the following areas, or their designees, who must also be administrators:

Curriculum and Instruction;  
~~Region~~ Regional Center in which the school is located;  
 Attendance Boundary Committee;  
 Civil Rights and Diversity Compliance;  
 Student Services;  
 Transportation;  
 School Facilities;  
 Employment and Staffing; and  
 Food and Nutrition.

Additional Committee membership will include parent representatives from the following:

PTA/PTSA at the initiating school; and  
 PTA/PTSA at the affected middle school.

The Assistant Superintendent of School Choice and Parental Options Specialized Programs will act as chair of the K-8 Center Technical Committee and the Regional Superintendent of the Regional Center in which the school is located will present the proposal.

2. A K-8 Center Administrative Committee shall review each proposal, along with the district-level feasibility study ~~requested by the K-8 Center Technical Committee~~ and districtwide plans for the establishment of K-8 Centers, if applicable, and, by majority vote, make a recommendation for acceptance or denial of the proposal to the Superintendent of Schools. At least one (1) representative of the initiating entity must be available to answer questions from the K-8 Center Administrative Committee when the proposal is reviewed.

The K-8 Center Administrative Committee shall be comprised of the following persons, or their equivalent:

Deputy Superintendent, ~~Curriculum and Instruction~~  
Curriculum, Instruction and School Improvement,  
 or designee, who will act as chair and will only vote  
in the case of a tie; ] REVISED

Deputy Superintendent, Business Operations, or designee;  
 Chief Financial Officer, or designee;

~~Chief Personnel Officer~~ Human Resources Officer, or  
 designee;

Associate Superintendent, Management Operations  
Curriculum and Instruction, or designee;

~~Region~~ Regional Superintendent of the ~~Region~~ Regional  
 Center in which the school is located, or designee;

Assistant Superintendent, ~~Curriculum Development and~~  
~~Instructional Support~~ Secondary, Curriculum and Instruction,  
 or designee;

Principal from an established K-8 Center;

One representative from the Attendance Boundary  
 Committee;

One representative from the Diversity Equity and Excellence  
 Advisory Committee;

~~One representative from the Schools of Choice Advisory~~  
~~Committee;~~

One member of the United Teachers of Dade, selected by  
 the Executive Vice President of the United Teachers of  
 Dade; and

President of the County Council of PTA, or designee.

3. All proposals shall be submitted to the School Board, by the Superintendent of Schools with a recommendation for acceptance or denial.
4. The School Board must, by a majority vote, approve or deny each proposal that it receives.
5. If the proposal is denied, the School Board shall direct the Superintendent of Schools to articulate in writing the specific reasons based upon good cause supporting the denial of the proposal. If a proposal is denied, the originator may resubmit a revised proposal to the appropriate administrative office for review during subsequent submission cycles.

6. ~~An approved proposal will be referred to the School Site Planning and Construction (SSPC) Committee for inclusion in the next regular cycle of facilities planning as outlined Section III of School Board Rule 6Gx13- 2C-1.083, Educational Facilities Planning, Site Selection and Acquisition, and Construction~~ A Board-approved proposal shall be included for funding in the Five-Year Capital Plan, as part of its next regular annual update, unless otherwise directed by the School Board.
7. Once the construction is completed, and prior to the facility being occupied by the additional grade level(s), the K-8 Center will be included in the Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) process for a grade configuration change.

Specific Authority: 1001.41(1)(2); 1001.42(22); 1001.43(10) F.S.

Law implemented, interpreted, or Made Specific: 1001.41(3); 1001.42(9)(b)(3)(7)(8); 1001.43(2)(f)(4)(5); 1002.20(6)(a) F.S.

**History**      **THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

New: 8-18-04

Amended: 5-18-05