

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

**SUBJECT:            AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORM AN EDUCATION  
                          COMPACT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
                          AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

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

Following the blueprint established by the formation of the Education Compact between the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the District will seek to establish a similar compact with Miami-Dade County. The goal of this compact will be to bring together each organization's collective resources with the goal of creating a framework for a world-class educational system.

Currently, Miami-Dade County and the District work together on issues such as comprehensive planning and the joint use of facilities, however, there are many other opportunities where the County and the District, working together, could bring about significant benefits for students, employees, community functions and the overall growth of the County as a leader in education. With that in mind, there are three areas of opportunity for cooperation and/or collaboration which include:

- economies of scale;
- training and professional development; and
- education and facilities.

Within the opportunity area of economies of scale, both the County and the District could benefit from collaboration in the areas of procurement, fuel buying, health insurance, emergency management and response, public health (wellness initiatives), telecommunications, "Wi Fi," the 311 communication system, waste management, and transportation. In the opportunity area of training and professional development, both the County and the District could benefit from collaboration in the areas of transportation, professional development, food handling and preparation, landscaper and maintenance training, and law enforcement and life safety cross-training.

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In the areas of education and facilities, both the County and the School District will benefit from joint planning regarding secondary school reform initiatives, e.g. special interest schools and academies within schools, in conjunction with County-wide economic development and career opportunities. Joint use of parking and recreation facilities, parks, libraries, and future land use; the creation of affordable housing for public employees; the delivery of homeless assistance services and emergency management services are areas of mutual concern with potential for collaborative solutions.

In addition to the items identified above, a County Compact would likely include collaboration on legislative agendas in support of public education, regular briefings of the School Board and County Commission, the recruiting of high quality teachers, and grant development opportunities.

In as much as the District and Miami-Dade County are the only two entities that serve the entire population of the county; are the two largest employers in the county; and recognize that the future success of the Miami-Dade community is directly related to the success of its children, the time to embark upon a comprehensive education compact with Miami-Dade County is ripe. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the residents and students of Miami-Dade County to initiate and codify an Education Compact between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Miami-Dade County to join forces to create first-rate educational programs and services throughout the County.

Recommended:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. authorize the Superintendent to form an Education Compact between Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and
2. bring the Education Compact with the Miami-Dade County back to the Board for acceptance by the May 10, 2006 Board meeting.