

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECEIVE THE REPORT *REVAMPING EDUCATION FOR GIFTED AND ALL LEARNERS* (REGAL) PLAN AND AUTHORIZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION TO RESTRUCTURE GIFTED K-12 PROGRAMS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the Superintendent of Schools strategic initiatives has been to revamp gifted education throughout Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) by ensuring greater equity and access for traditionally underrepresented students. In addition, at its August 17, 2005 meeting, the School Board approved Item B-14, proffered by Dr. Martin Karp, which directed the Superintendent to conduct an evaluation of the implementation of gifted education K-12 programs in M-DCPS. Item B-14 requested:

- an evaluation of the implementation of gifted education K-12 programs;
- an evaluation of the curriculum for gifted programs to ensure a differentiated curriculum unique to this program;
- development of a plan to ensure that teachers of the gifted complete the required courses for endorsement in gifted education; and
- development of a plan to encourage teachers of the gifted to obtain English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) certification.

As a result of the revamping initiative and the Board action, staff from the Division of Advanced Academic Programs; Regional Centers; Curriculum and Instruction; Assessment and Data Analysis; Performance Improvement; Specialized Education, Alternative Outreach, and Psychological Services; Specialized Programs; Office of Civil Rights and Diversity Compliance; principals and teachers; United Teachers of Dade; and the Dade County Council Parent Teacher Association/Parent Teacher Student Association collaborated to form the Gifted Task Force and develop the report *Revamping Education for Gifted and ALL Learners* (REGAL) *Plan*.

The three-year plan of action is aligned with State Statute, State Board Rule, School Board Rule, Post Unitary Status Plan of Action, the Florida Educational Equity Act, and the goals and objectives of M-DCPS *2005-2008 District Strategic Plan*.

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The *REGAL* Plan provides a three-year phase in implementation timeline. At the end of year 3, 2008-2009, appropriate implementation of the proposed Plan will allow for: (1) equitable identification opportunities for potentially gifted students from traditionally underrepresented groups; (2) a home-based gifted program in all elementary and middle schools and services in senior high schools through gifted content courses or through the gifted Consultation Model; (3) gifted program standards to serve as benchmarks for measuring program effectiveness; (4) expansion of advanced programs ensuring access and equity throughout the District; and (5) a major paradigm shift to ensure identification of talent potential in all students and provide opportunities within the context of the general curriculum.

Key recommendations for year 1, 2006-2007, include but are not limited to:

- administering the *Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)* to all grade 1 students;
- adopting a State-approved gifted characteristics checklist;
- adding School Psychologists and Placement Specialists to ensure timeliness of evaluations and placements of potentially gifted students;
- establishing a gifted ratio for all full time programs;
- implementing the Consultation Model at senior high schools with no gifted programs;
- increasing support for all gifted and advanced programs;
- supporting talent development at all levels;
- providing professional development that includes all stakeholders responsible for the execution of identification and referral procedures, cultural sensitivity and awareness of underrepresented groups; and delivery of effective curriculum differentiation instruction; and
- broadening parental participation and support.

Copies of the *REGAL* Plan will be transmitted to the School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida, 33132.

The cost for implementing the *REGAL* Plan for year 1 is: \$3,068,826. The appropriation for this item will be included in the 2006-2007 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in August 2006 under Fund 0100, Function 5213, Program 6790, and Location 9622.

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

1. receive the report, *Revamping Education for Gifted and ALL Learners (REGAL) Plan*;
2. authorize the implementation of the three-year plan of action to revamp gifted K-12 programs in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; and
3. authorize the appropriation for year one of this item, \$3,068,826, which will be included in the 2006-2007 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in August 2006.

AD/LCR/MB/BZ:lv