

Ms. Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO RECEIVE THE DIVISION OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
2006-2007 K-12 SCIENCE PLAN**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staff from the Division of Science in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction has developed a K-12 science plan to be implemented by schools beginning with the 2006-2007 school year. The plan will provide for uniformity in science content coverage and pedagogy, as well as ensure the effective coverage of the science benchmarks. The K-12 Plan is aligned to currently adopted science textbooks and the District's Strategic Plan, as well as addressing several District-wide initiatives.

The Plan includes: 1) a pacing guide for grades K – 12 that is aligned to the annually assessed and content-sampled benchmarks covered in the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT); 2) a menu of professional development activities available to teachers; 3) a list of Parent Academy courses available to parents and guardians; 4) a repertoire of teaching strategies for effective utilization of the science instructional block at the elementary level; 5) a K – 12 list of words and strategies for vocabulary development and literacy integration; 6) a list of local institutions (i.e. Metro Zoo, Parrot Jungle, and the Museum of Science) where teachers and their students are able to conduct science field studies; 7) procedures for the implementation of progress monitoring activities to be conducted by district focus teams composed of curriculum supervisors and support specialists; 8) inquiry-based activities that support the development of higher level cognitive skills; 9) sample FCAT science questions; and 10) a list of science competitions available to schools throughout the year.

The *K-12 Science Plan* supports instruction that is aligned to the Continuous Improvement Model (CIM). The Plan has been designed with teacher reflection and feedback and will be delivered through an extensive professional development program available to teachers during the fall, spring, and summer terms. Participants in the professional development program will include elementary and secondary teachers from the District, teachers selected to participate in the Elementary and Secondary Science Leadership Institute, and regional curriculum supervisors and support specialists. Teachers who successfully complete the Elementary and Secondary Science Leadership Institute will serve as liaisons to regional and district office personnel who are responsible for effective implementation of the Plan.

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RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the
K - 12 Science Plan.

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