

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEW DESIGNATION OF MIAMI CENTRAL AND MIAMI JACKSON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AS *RISE TO RIGOR* SCHOOLS AND THE CONTINUED DESIGNATION OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, HOMESTEAD, AND MIAMI EDISON, SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AS *RISE TO RIGOR* SCHOOLS FOR THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) working collaboratively with the College Board was able to secure from the Florida Partnership in December 2005 the designation of Booker T. Washington, Homestead, and Miami Edison Senior High Schools as *Rise to Rigor* schools. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year Miami Central and Miami Jackson Senior High Schools will become *Rise to Rigor* schools as well.

From January 2006 through May 2006, a College Board consultant worked closely with the original three senior high schools to provide guidance to the administrators on the identification of potential Advanced Placement (AP) students, develop a timeline to increase rigor, identify AP courses and teachers for the 2006-2007 school year, and afford professional development on Vertical Team with the feeder pattern middle schools. Evaluation results for the four-month College Board impact on the schools indicates increased course offering and student participation as well as increased teacher participation in Summer Institute professional development. During the 2006-2007 school year the College Board consultant will continue to provide the abovementioned support with increased on-site training for teachers.

The *Rise to Rigor* initiative is part of the Corrective Action Plan for Miami Central, Miami Edison, and Miami Jackson Senior High Schools.

The College Board will provide initial support to Miami Central and Miami Jackson Senior High Schools on the following objectives, strategies, and indicators:

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Objectives

- Increase access/enrollment in rigorous courses;
- Increase access to College Board resources for schools;
- Prepare all students for the next level after graduation;
- Strengthen individual institutions with a personalized state outreach; and
- Change the mindset towards education overall and make rigor a state of mind.

Strategies

- Change registration processes so that students are registered for rigor unless parents request otherwise;
- Provide on the ground technical assistance and professional development by College Board consultant;
- Offer more rigorous courses to students;
- Offer open communication between College Board and District; and
- Provide all students access to a rigorous course schedule and market the image of rigor in a positive light.

Indicators

- Enrollment in rigorous courses will increase from prior year;
- Positive feedback from faculty in response to College Board consultation;
- More students applying and attending postsecondary institutions and an increased completion rate;
- Ease of transition into initiative; and
- Students perform better, are more prepared, and the demand for rigorous classes increases among students.

In addition, the College Board will provide:

- Student Academic Summer Camps at each *Rise to Rigor* school for students enrolled or interested in advanced courses.
- Vertical Team workshops for cohorts of language arts and mathematics teachers from the senior high schools and the feeder middle schools;
- College Ed™ six-week, web-based, 12-lesson course designed to inspire students and their families to prepare for college;
- My Road™ four-year high school experience which provides career and college research/counseling;
- Kaplan-taught SAT Prep Course for 25 students per school;
- Training for administrators; and
- Support materials.

There is no cost to the District.

RECOMMENDED: Request That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, acknowledge the new designation of Miami Central and Miami Jackson Senior High Schools as *Rise To Rigor* schools, and the continued designation of Booker T. Washington, Homestead, and Miami Edison Senior High Schools as *Rise To Rigor* schools for the 2006-2007 school year.

There is no cost to the District.

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