

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF ETIQUETTE/DEPARTMENT AS A
GRADED AREA ON REPORT CARDS**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

Excellent social skills are a key ingredient in the achievement of individuals in any field. The new global economy has made it imperative that our graduates be able to interact, collaborate, and socialize with a multitude of diverse cultures.

Also, knowing how to navigate social conventions can ultimately give a child confidence. Good manners have benefits, children feel comfortable because they know what to do. Second, people enjoy their company because they are confident, poised, and ready to act, when opportunities present themselves.

Therefore, in response to the need of our students, Miami-Dade Public Schools will establish Etiquette/Department as a graded area on report cards for students K-12.

According to a Time magazine article: " 'Kids don't know how to shake your hand at graduation', says Rudolph Crew, Superintendent of the Miami-Dade school system. Department, he notes, used to be on the report card. Some of the nation's more forward-thinking schools are bringing it back. It's one part of 21st century education that sleepy old Rip would recognize." (*How to bring our schools out of the 20th century* by Claudia Wallis, Sonja Steptoe, Time Magazine; December 10, 2006)

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, directs the superintendent to explore the best means of providing etiquette instruction and incorporating department in the report card, and include recommendations in the 2007-08 student progression plan.

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