

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

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

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: EDUCATE AND ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS ON DISTRICT INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Following the blueprint established by the formation of the Education Compacts between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (District), and other local general purpose governments, the District and the City of Miami Gardens (City), will now partner to bring together each organization's collective resources for the greater benefit of the students and the citizens of Miami Gardens.

Located in north-central Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami Gardens, incorporated in 2003, encompasses approximately 20 square miles and is home to 26 District facilities including 18 elementary, 4 middle, and 2 high schools. With a population of over 105,000, it is the third largest city in the county and the largest predominantly African-American municipality in the State of Florida. In addition to being home to Dolphin Stadium and Calder Race Track, the City also contains 2 universities - Florida Memorial University and St. Thomas University, a major industrial park, 18 community and neighborhood parks with over 163 acres of parks and recreation space hosting a wide variety of community activities.

In recognition of the fact that *It Takes...* the commitment of the District and the City to raise academic achievement, and recognizing the importance placed on education by the residents of Miami Gardens, the District and City seek to codify an Education Compact to build on existing programs and innovative ideas which will enhance the lifelong educational opportunities for the community. Therefore, this Compact will serve as a framework to engage the entire Miami Gardens family of stakeholders in the conversation about how to ensure the success of our children through the creation of excellent educational opportunities.

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The Education Compact will encompass programs and/or projects that can be enriched, expedited, or better realized through collaborative efforts. The following items represent a potential list of programs and/or projects that the Compact will focus on.

Improving Academic Programs

- The District will ensure that all schools within the City of Miami Gardens strive to achieve at least an accountability grade of B by the 2009 – 2010 school year.
- The District will explore the placement of additional specialized academic programs in schools which serve the City, such as Magnet programs, Career Academies, dual certification programs.
- The District will explore the establishment of a community school program within a school that serves the City.
- The City will support students by working with the District to develop internship/mentorship programs, and encouraging its business community to do the same, in accordance with the Superintendent's Secondary Reform Initiative.
- The District will work with the City to deliver tutorial programs and other supplemental educational programs to benefit the residents of the City.
- The District will explore the feasibility of developing a program of enhanced adult and technical education offerings at schools within the City, which may include programs offering training in nursing, medical technologies, automotive technologies, and other emerging industries with the goal of reducing the rate of joblessness and enhancing the skills of the City's workforce.
- The City and the District will jointly explore the feasibility of expanding the District's aviation training program to facilities located at the Opa-Locka Airport.

Community Involvement

- The City will partner with local community groups such as the North Dade Chamber of Commerce, to develop a Mayor's Education Roundtable and/or Education Business Forum to host regular meetings on educational issues with various community and business leaders and District staff, to foster support of the City's schools.
- The District will focus on the specific needs of Miami Gardens parents by partnering with the City, the Children's Trust, community-based organizations, and local faith-based organizations to develop a city-based model of The Parent Academy which will capitalize on some of the unique resources available in the City of Miami Gardens.

- The City will collaborate with the District to foster local business support for educational programs, including employee programs to encourage parent participation in schools.
- The District and City will collaborate to establish an active PTA in each school located in the City and increase parental involvement in area schools.
- The City and the District will work together, and with other community based organizations to develop appropriate after-school programs, particularly at the middle school level, utilizing both District and City facilities and resources as appropriate.
- The City and District will explore the feasibility of incorporating an M-DCPS Parent Resource Center into a future City owned community center.

Coordination of Infrastructure and Administrative Planning Efforts

- The District will provide clear and timely information to the City regarding school construction and impacts to attendance boundaries.
- The District will assist the City with the implementation of the Child Murder Youth Violence Initiative, which calls for the formation of a local collaborative that works to deliver and strengthen prevention/intervention programs such as Miami Partnership for Action in Communities Task Force (MPACT).
- The City and the District will explore joint-use and planning of schools, parks, recreation centers and future land use.
- The City will work with the District to expand opportunities for grant-writing partnerships to provide innovative educational program opportunities for Miami Gardens youth.
- The City will work with the District, through its Parks and Recreation Department, to design and deliver recreational programming for youth that recognizes academic performance as a priority in a child's life.
- The City will support District marketing efforts by distributing information regarding District programs, sponsoring specific marketing initiatives through its business partners, supporting school events, providing an education link on the City's web site, and other activities as authorized by the City.
- The District and the City will identify opportunities for cooperation on administrative issues to gain economies of scale in areas such as staff training, emergency planning, transportation and procurement.

School Safety Issues

- The District and City will identify a Police Liaison officer from each of the respective police departments to ensure a coordinated approach on issues related to youth, crime prevention, and other relevant safety and area schools.
- The District, through the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department, will establish a mutual-aid agreement with the City of Miami Gardens Police Department once the City assumes the responsibility for its police function.
- The City and the District will work together to deliver an adequate level of police-related services to ensure safety issues are addressed at each school facility in recognition of the fact that the City has several multi-school campuses and a significant number of schools within its municipal boundaries, and that the high number of facilities places a strain on the resources of the City's Police Department.
- The City and the District will work together to support the efforts of the City's School Crossing Guard programs by educating parents and students about issues such as pedestrian and bicycle safety.

In addition to the items identified above, the Education Compact envisions collaboration on legislative agendas in support of public education, regular briefings of the School Board and City Council, and the recruiting of high quality teachers.

The adoption of this Education Compact between the City of Miami Gardens and the District establishes a pact to continually strive to promote excellence and relevance in education in the City's schools and community at large by joining forces for the greater benefit of both the students and the citizens of Miami Gardens.

Recommended: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to form an Education Compact between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and The City of Miami Gardens.