

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 BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND TO
CREATE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S BUSINESS ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

**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 County and Municipal Education Compacts between Miami-Dade County Public Schools (District) and other local general purpose governments, the District and the "business community" will now partner to bring together collective resources for the greater benefit of the students and the business/civic community of this county.

The impetus for this education compact grew out of the CEO Briefings, which are held monthly by the Superintendent of Schools to brief CEOs and Executives on issues of importance to the District, and for the business community to provide feedback to the Superintendent. The central focus of every discussion has been the prime importance this public school system plays in sustaining a successful business community. Business leaders at each and every meeting have voiced a willingness to help Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and a desire to do so in a sustained and meaningful way.

In recognition of the desire of the business community to partner with the District in support of a world class school system, and in recognition of the importance placed on public education by the business and civic community, the District seeks to codify an Education Compact between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Business Community (Business Compact). The Business Compact will build on existing programs, such as Dade Partners, and will provide a vehicle for the business community to get further involved in public education by serving as a framework to further engage the entire business community in the conversation about how to ensure the success of our children.

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

Improving Academic Programs

- The District will partner with area businesses and civic organizations, such as the Miami Business Forum, the Beacon Council, and area Chambers of Commerce to match a CEO or executive leader with the leadership team of each school to provide support, advocacy and collaboration through an on-going relationship. The popular **Principal for a Day** program will be coordinated with this effort in the fall of 2007.
- The business community will be critical to the work of the **Educational Council of International Cities (ECIC)** initiative as we work collaboratively to identify the skills and training needed to prepare our students to compete in a global economy. The business community will provide expertise, resources, and professional support to the ECIC initiative.
- The business community will support the **Superintendent's Secondary School Reform** initiative by assisting with recruiting internships for students within their chosen fields of study.

Community Involvement and Communications

- The District will collaborate with the business community to create a **Business Leaders Speakers Bureau**, whereby business leaders will be enlisted to serve as speakers for mutual areas of interest.
- The **Superintendent's Business Advisory Council (BAC)** will be created to provide sustained and on-going feedback for the Superintendent. Recommendations for members to serve on this council will be sought from Board Members, District Administration, and from the business community.
- An on-line news brief, **The CEO Briefing**, will be created, in cooperation with the Office of Communications and the Marketing Office, to provide updated information of importance to the business community and to provide a forum for regular feedback and communications.
- The new **Community Portal** will provide the business and civic community with one point of entry for involvement the District. Available in the fall 2007, this portal will significantly simplify outside communications with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the public.

- The business community will collaborate with the District on the ***IT Takes*** Marketing campaign and ways to recognize and honor outstanding alumni.

Creating Additional Resources

- The District and the business community will work cooperatively to create opportunities to increase monetary and in-kind resources available to the District. Such opportunities will include the consideration of the creation of a 501 (c) (3) to support priorities aligned to the District goals, and overseen collaboratively with the business community.
- The District and the business community will capitalize on the partnerships developed through the municipal education compacts to engage the local communities, their business leaders, and their schools through joint efforts to provide more local resources for the schools, such as a municipal adopt-a-classroom effort.

In addition to the items identified above, other opportunities for collaboration and the Business Compact include the provision of support for the Board's legislative agendas in support of public education, and other on-going issues as developed through the Superintendent's Business Advisory Council.

The adoption of this Business Compact, a strategic alliance between the business community and the District, establishes a pact to promote excellence in education in Miami-Dade County by joining forces for the greater benefit of the community as a whole.

It is anticipated that the activities and programs to be implemented under the auspices of the Business Compact will be carried out by existing District staff. Further, it is expected that to the extent additional resources may be required to support projects initiated under this Compact they will be acquired through corporate contributions and/or other supplemental sources resulting in no additional cost to the District.

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 business community; and to create The Superintendent's Business Advisory Council.