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Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECEIVE THE 2006-2007 ANNUAL FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT (FEEA) UPDATE

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: 1. INCREASE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF ALL STUDENTS;
2. ELIMINATE THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP; and
3. IMPROVE DIVERSITY AND COMPETENCY OF STAFF

Background

The Florida Educational Equity Act (Act) prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status against a student or an employee in the state system of public K-20 education. The Act further provides that no person in this state shall, on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any public K-20 education program or activity, or in any employment conditions or practices, conducted by a public educational institution that receives or benefits from federal or state financial assistance.

The Florida Department of Education, Office of Equity and Access (OEA) has the responsibility of monitoring whether Districts throughout the state of Florida are in compliance with the Act. As part of the monitoring and compliance process, the OEA requires that each Superintendent of Schools submit an Annual Florida Educational Equity Act Update (Update) by July 31, of each year. The reporting format and content to be examined, compiled and submitted to the Department of Education is provided by the OEA to all school districts. Once the Update is complete and submitted by the Superintendent of Schools to the Department of Education, Office of Equity and Access, the Update is then forwarded to the School Board to confirm that the Superintendent of Schools has complied with the provision of the Act, as it relates to the timely submission of the Update.

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It should be noted, that this is the first year that School Boards across the state of Florida have been required to *receive* the report on behalf of their school district. Prior to this requirement being instituted, this District has satisfied the mandate of timely submitting the Update for each reporting cycle.

Report Content

The Office of Diversity Compliance for Miami-Dade County Public Schools has the sole responsibility of coordinating the receipt, compilation, and submission of the Update to the Department of Education no later than July 31 of each year. For the 2006-2007 reporting cycle, OEA required the submission of data regarding the following: policies regarding civil rights protection (protected categories), HIV education, student participation in reading (Grades 3 and 10), Algebra I, PSAT/PLAN (Grade 8), Advanced Placement, Honors, Dual Enrollment, and Level III Classes, gender equity in athletics, employment equity, and access to vocational programs by students with disabilities.

Access to the Report

Copies of the Update will be transmitted to the Board and placed on file in the Office of the Recording Secretary and Citizens Information Center. Due to the voluminous nature of the Update and to ensure easy access to the information, the Update is also available in a CD format.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, *receive* the 2006-2007 Annual Florida Educational Equity Act Update, as required by law.

APD:cm