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Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECEIVE THE 2007-2008 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 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 second 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**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has the responsibility of coordinating the receipt and compiling the required data in order to submit the report to the Department of Education. The report was timely submitted to the department on July 31, 2008.

For the 2007-2008 reporting cycle, the District provided data regarding student performance and participation in the following areas: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade FCAT, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I, 10<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT/PLAN, Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment (DE), Honors and other Level III courses. The District also provided data regarding employment equity, gender equity in athletics, and access to vocational programs for 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. The Update is also available in a CD format.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, *receive* the 2007-2008 Annual Florida Educational Equity Act Update, as required by law.

APD:cm