

Dr. Marta Pérez, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 09-110 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESTORE FUNDING TO THE CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT**

**STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF ALL STUDENTS**

Our community has been blessed with an array of cultural arts programs that enrich our lives, foster a love of learning, and provide a vehicle for creativity. They are also a powerful economic force that generate jobs and make South Florida a more appealing destination to visitors.

Also, the students of Miami-Dade County desperately need access to arts programs that complement their academic experience. Many students are unable to gain admission to the highly-regarded but limited magnet programs that the School District offers. The availability of neighborhood school-arts programs allows some students to pursue artistic interests that would otherwise be unavailable to them.

The elected leaders of our community have been forced to make painful cuts in order to meet the challenges of our worsening economy. Some may mistakenly view the arts as an unnecessary expense, without fully realizing the importance of these programs. Among other detrimental effects to our community, cutting these programs would severely impact our students and add to the numbers that are unemployed. The success of our Superintendent's Cultural Passport initiative, which relies so heavily on the availability of cultural arts programs, may also be affected.

Supporting arts programs is in our best interests: they increase student achievement and help our economy. This item proposes that this Board request our County Commissioners to restore funding to the cultural arts programs.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-110 requesting that the Board of County Commissioners restore funding to the cultural arts programs of Miami-Dade County.

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-110  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
REQUESTING THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESTORE  
FUNDING TO THE CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAMS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the South Florida community's cultural arts programs serve to enrich our lives, foster a love of learning, and provide an outlet for creativity; and

**WHEREAS**, cultural arts programs are a powerful economic force that impact the business community by generating employment and attracting visitors to South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the arts are also an important component of a complete education and have proven to increase student academic achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability of community arts programs allows students the opportunity to pursue artistic interests that might otherwise be unavailable to them; and

**WHEREAS**, the reduction or elimination of cultural arts programs would have detrimental effects on our community, our students, and our local economy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 09-110 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, requesting that the Board of County Commissioners restore funding to the cultural arts programs of Miami-Dade County.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this ninth day of September, A.D. 2009**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary