

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECEIVE THE STATUS REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A PILOT PROGRAM THAT INCORPORATES BABY CARE (0-3 YEARS) FOR EMPLOYEES OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT DESIGNATED SCHOOL SITES AND DISTRICT BUILDINGS

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

At the Board meeting of January 13, 2010, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved revised Agenda Item H-16 proffered by Dr. Marta Pérez, School Board Member. Board Item H-16 directed the Superintendent of Schools to provide a status report on the feasibility of creating a pilot program that incorporates baby care (0-3 years) for employees of Miami-Dade County Public Schools at designated school sites and district buildings.

In response to the Board's request, District staff took the following steps:

- developed and conducted a survey to determine employee interest and need for child care services;
- completed a market analysis of fees charged by local fee-based child care centers;
- analyzed the current subsidized care rate in relation to program costs;
- researched the availability of space in School Board-owned facilities, the cost of required classroom renovations, acquisition of mandatory equipment, and overall start-up costs;
- used the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) guidelines to determine child-to-adult ratios;
- consulted with the Florida Department of Children and Families for guidance regarding licensing and room specifications for various age groups; and
- conducted an analysis of the services currently available through the District for children ages birth to three.

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After reviewing all the pertinent information and data, the Office of Early Childhood Programs prepared a status report that describes possible program models; identification of school sites and district buildings that have available space suitable for having a birth to three program; delineates the funding and essentials required to operate such programs; and a tentative pilot program implementation timeline.

Copies of the status report will be transmitted to School Board Members under separate cover and will be available for inspection, by the public, in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida, 33132.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the status report on the feasibility of creating a pilot program that incorporates baby care (0-3 years) for employees of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) at designated school sites and district buildings.