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**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO FORM AN
 EDUCATION COMPACT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE
 COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE CITY OF
 SWEETWATER**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL
 RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Following the blueprint established by the formation of the Education Compacts among Miami-Dade County Public Schools (District), and other local general purpose governments, the District and the City of Sweetwater (City), will now partner to bring together each organization's collective resources for the greater benefit of both the students and the citizens of Sweetwater.

The City of Sweetwater was incorporated more than 60 years ago. During the 1970s, changes took place that transformed the City including the establishment of a major new state university to the south and the construction of two major expressways to the north and west. The City's population has grown to more than 14,200, with 93 percent of its residents being of Hispanic origin. The City services, resources and facilities include a full-service police department and city hall complex, four parks, a county fire station, 4,353 residential housing units, 14 shopping centers, over 600 businesses, several churches, and a bank. The City is governed by a mayor and seven-member city commission.

The City is home to one school, Sweetwater Elementary School, which feeds into Ruben Dario Middle School and Miami Coral Park Senior High School. Both the elementary and middle schools received a school grade of "A" for the 2008-2009 school year and the senior high school has maintained a grade of "C" for the past five school years.

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In recognition of the commitment of the District and the City to continue to support academic achievement, and recognizing the importance placed on education by the residents of the City, the District and the City seek to codify an Education Compact to build on existing programs and innovative ideas to enhance the lifelong educational opportunities for the entire community. Therefore, through this agreement the District and City will strive to meet the educational needs of each child and enhance the learning opportunities for all. The Education Compact will encompass programs and/or projects that can be enriched, expedited, or better realized through collaborative efforts.

The areas of focus in this collaboration include, but are not limited to academic achievement, parental involvement, and community involvement. The initial major activities, intended outcomes, and measures associated with each of these major focus areas are outlined below.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

1. The District will make available to the City student academic and survey data on an annual basis via annual report format, specific to City feeder schools.
2. The District and City will work with the local libraries to incorporate Links to Learning activities to develop an awareness of the online learning resources available to students.
3. The District and City will work together to highlight educational programs available to youth within the community including successful magnet programs.
4. The City will collaborate with the District to explore possible resources to ensure that all students and parents have access to the school district portals and Links to Learning programs.
5. The City and District will explore venues to support the Superintendent's Cultural Passport Initiatives.
6. The City will collaborate with the District to provide service-learning opportunities for students within City departments and/or agencies within the City boundaries.

Key Intended Outcomes

- Sustained academic achievement;
- Targeted gains for AYP subgroups; and
- Increased graduation rates

Measures

- Annual reading, math and science learning gains on the FCAT; and
- Number of joint efforts linked to highlighting available programs

CITY INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

Activities

1. The City and the District will identify alumni of public schools within City to engage them in supporting their alma mater and District initiatives.
2. The City and the District will promote mutual community involvement initiatives and practices. This will include a master list of events in which students can participate to earn community service hours.
3. The City and the District will collaborate to identify businesses within the City to partner with local schools through the Dade Partners program in support of student achievement.
4. The District and City will jointly continue to support internship opportunities with City businesses and Miami Coral Park Senior High School based on parameters within the District's Secondary School Reform plan.

Key Intended Outcomes:

- Increased access to school and city facilities for community activities;
- Increased workforce internships experiences for youth; and
- Increased youth civic engagement in municipal government

Measures

- Number of activities that are scheduled;
- Number of youth participating in workforce internship opportunities; and
- Number of municipal government meetings and activities allowing for youth involvement

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Activities

1. The District will make available to the City parent survey data on a regular basis via annual parent satisfaction survey results and School Climate Survey results, segregated by the City feeder schools where possible.

2. Through The Parent Academy (TPA), interested City personnel will be provided with training by the District regarding use of the District's newly launched Parent Portal and other electronic resources available through the District.
3. The District and the City will work together to develop a campaign regarding the importance of parents getting involved in education and in school-based Parent Teacher Associations.

Key Intended Outcomes:

- Increased community access to educational information and opportunities;
- Increased accessibility to family/individual support services; and
- Increased usage rates of the parent portal

Measures:

- Number of parents from City feeder schools attending The Parent Academy programs;
- Number of parents participating in the school site PTA via membership rosters; and
- Number of parents utilizing the parent portal

COMMUNICATION

Activities

1. The City will work with the District to disseminate information related to educational opportunities and activities by placing information in strategic community locations.
2. The City and the District will collaborate to enhance education-related communication to City's residents by developing an education page to be included in the City website with links to City feeder schools, providing access to space in the City's newsletters and magazines in order to disseminate information on City feeder schools.
3. The City and the District will collaborate on legislative agendas in support of public education.
4. Provide regular briefings to the School Board and the City Council regarding the status of the implementation of this Compact and other issues of interest.

5. The City will support District marketing efforts by distributing information regarding District programs, supporting school events, providing an education link on City's website, and other activities as authorized by the City.

Measures:

- Number of District legislative priorities supported by City; and
- Number of educationally-related articles/ads disseminated through City-sponsored communication methods (magazines, newspaper, television)

The adoption of this Education Compact between The City and the District establishes a pact to continually strive to promote excellence and relevance in education in City's feeder schools and community at large by joining forces for the greater benefit of both the students the citizens of the City.

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 City of Sweetwater.