

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   SUBSIDIZED SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM (SR)  
FUNDING FOR AFTER-SCHOOL CARE**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

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

The Subsidized School Readiness Program (SR) assists working low-income families with the cost of child care. However, given recent reductions in state funding, 4,500 local school-age children currently enrolled in Florida's subsidized SR program will be cast out of after-school care this upcoming school year. Statewide, 15,000 children will be excluded. The timing could not be worse for working-class families across our community — this program helps cover childcare costs and allows parents to seek work or maintain their jobs while their children learn and are taken care of in a safe environment after school.

For Miami-Dade, the reductions in SR program funding amount to a loss of about \$13 million for the 2011-2012 school year. Currently, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, organization which operates the SR program in our community, has had to make the difficult decision of modifying their funding priorities. This means that for the upcoming school year, they will only be able to provide services to children up to five years of age, and only in the case that there are additional funds left over will they be able to revisit funding for school-age children.

This item does not appear in the published Agenda. There is good cause to vary from the Agenda given the critical urgency of finding ways in which to finance after-school care for students (ages 6 - 9) for the upcoming school year beginning August 22, 2011.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to establish a working-group of child advocacy leaders in Miami-Dade with the goal of identifying funding options for the SR after-school care program.

**Good Cause  
H-22**