

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

SUBJECT: LAWN MAINTENANCE

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION REFORM

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY**

Attention should be given to the lawns and foliage that surround most, if not all, of Miami-Dade County's public schools. Along with serving as recreation spaces for students, the community, staff and faculty members, they are often used by teachers to enhance and diversify their students' educational experiences. These areas often elevate—or diminish—a school's aesthetic appeal. Accordingly, proper maintenance of these spaces is critical to ensuring that they are functioning at maximum capacity.

This responsibility is currently entrusted to each school through their individual custodial staff. The District only provides the maintenance of large areas (i.e. physical education fields) and of high school athletic fields.

Every Miami-Dade County public school is therefore responsible for allocating a portion of their budget to the provision of lawn-maintenance, which includes equipment, tools, fuel, and employees. However, an increase in the amount of schools soliciting private lawn-maintenance services suggests that they are limited in their ability to provide this service. Furthermore, many schools lack cost-effective alternatives to consider and are subsequently experiencing challenges* related to lawn-maintenance.

As an alternative to the current policy, which delegates lawn-maintenance responsibilities to each school, the District should explore the feasibility of privatizing certain lawn services. Furthermore, a study should assess the potential improvements or damages that this option may bring to schools' lawns and relevant exterior spaces as well as any potential cost savings.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. CARLOS L. CURBELO:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of contracting private businesses to perform lawn maintenance services.

**Replacement
H-11**