

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: FOOD INSECURE STUDENTS

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

The number of U.S. families struggling to put enough food on the table remains at record-high levels, according to government figures. Food Insecure families are described as living in households where the food intake of one or more of its members is reduced and their eating patterns disrupted during the year because the household lacks money and other resources for food. The Agriculture Department notes that almost 18 million households had trouble putting food on the table last year. Overall, 1 in 5 children in the U.S. lives in a food-insecure household. In fact, almost 37 percent of households with children headed by single mothers had trouble getting enough food last year, slightly more than the year before.

Compacted by the economic recovery, the demand for food from local pantries and soup kitchens has more than doubled since 2007. In response to this growing need for additional resources by local entities and food banks, federal legislation was amended in 2011 to expand the Good Samaritan Act by adding additional language that addressed school donations. The Good Samaritan Act protects well-meaning people and organizations from liability exposure if someone falls ill after eating donated food. Prior to this amendment schools were not covered from liability. As a result of this expanded coverage, several dozen schools districts across the country have initiated food recovery programs to benefit their communities. These food recovery programs, often student-driven, require the thoughtful and organized collection and distribution of unused excess cafeteria foods to benefit the students and communities served by our schools.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study and bring forth recommendations related to the launch of a food recovery program benefitting food insecure families within Miami-Dade County Public Schools, to include the possibility of limited school site food banks.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study and bring forth recommendations related to the launch of a food recovery program benefitting food insecure families within Miami-Dade County Public Schools, to include the possibility of limited school site food banks and report back to the Board by the July 2013 School Board meeting.

**Replacement
H-13**

