

Mr. Carlos L. Curbelo, Board Member

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION

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

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

The hallmark of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' success over the past several years has been innovation and efficiency; innovation in the classroom and efficiency in our operations and business practices. As such, it is reasonable for the District to examine those business functions which are replicated in the private sector to determine if either cost-savings or efficiencies could be gained through the application of an alternative business model, whether that is a public/private partnership, outsourcing of the function, or other modification to our existing operations.

One area of our business operations which merits exploration is that of transportation. Currently, M-DCPS transports over 60,000 children a day and operates over 1300 buses. In addition, over 20 private bus companies are approved to operate bus routes and provide transportation for field trips and school activities. In fact, M-DCPS operates one of the largest public transportation systems in the country. The mere size and scope of this operation warrants a closer look to determine the cost-benefit to the taxpayers of continuing with our current operation or exploring other operational alternatives.

Across the country, other urban school districts have outsourced non-core support services such as student transportation with varying degrees of success. This item asks the Administration to investigate the experiences of other public school systems that have outsourced their transportation operations and provide an informational summary to the Board; to conduct a full cost analysis of our current transportation operations, inclusive of a full valuation of our transportation related assets; and to prepare a Request for Information (RFI) in order to ascertain the interest and capacity of private firms to provide all or a portion of the District's student transportation services.

This item is in no way a criticism of the M-DCPS Transportation Department or of its administrators, but genuinely seeks to ascertain the most efficient and most effective means of delivering student transportation services to the District. In fact it should be noted that the District's transportation department has excelled in comparison to others serving urban areas. However, it is prudent public policy to regularly review the operations of an agency to determine if improvements may be made and economies achieved, with all savings being directed to the core function of the District – teaching and learning.

**Replacement
H-15**

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. CARLOS L. CURBELO:**

Request that The School Board of Miami-Dade County direct the Superintendent to complete the following within 60 days:

- 1) Investigate the experiences of other public school systems that have outsourced their transportation operations and provide an informational summary to the Board;
- 2) Conduct a full cost analysis of our current transportation operations, inclusive of a full valuation of our transportation related assets; and
- 3) Prepare a Request for Information (RFI) in order to ascertain the interest and capacity of private firms to provide all or a portion of the District's student transportation services.