

Mr. Carlos Curbelo, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 14-115  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY,  
FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA TAX SCHOLARSHIP  
AND EDUCATIONAL CHOICE**

**COMMITTEE:           INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND   COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) is a leading innovator in a state whose Strategic Education Plan establishes a goal to "expand choice options" to all students. MDCPS offers a rich array of learning options, including magnet and choice schools, charter schools, and career and professional academies.

MDCPS has one of the most diverse student populations in the country including a high percentage of students from low-income families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship was created in 2001 to provide a unique learning option for students from low-income families. The Tax Credit Scholarship now serves thousands of students attending numerous private schools in Miami-Dade; students who come from households with an average income below the poverty line.

According to standardized tests required by the state, scholarship students statewide are among the worst performers in their public schools when they leave them, but then once on the program they achieve learning gains similar to students of all incomes, including those from higher-income families. Independent research from Northwestern University has shown that public schools statewide most impacted by the loss of scholarship students are themselves showing significant test-score gains among low-income students.

While MDCPS has been nationally recognized for its great strides in improving the quality of education and educational choices for low-income families, other Florida school districts lag far behind. After 13 years of successful Tax Credit Scholarship operations, the Florida Education Association, Florida School Boards Association, Florida Association of School Administrators and others filed a lawsuit on August 28, 2014, seeking to shut down the program and potentially remove nearly 69,000 low-income students from the schools of their choice.

This item merits good cause due to the fact that it is imperative for The Board to address this legal action which could aggrieve thousands of low-income families in Miami-Dade County.

**Good Cause  
H-15**

RESOLUTION NO. 14-115 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE LAWSUIT, *McCall v. Scott*, AND RESPECTFULLY URGES THE ABOVE-NAMED PLAINTIFFS TO WITHDRAW IT FOR THE GOOD OF THE STUDENTS AND LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO DEPEND ON THE FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND THE SCHOOLS OF THEIR CHOICE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship is a critical component of the state's education system, providing an opportunity for low-income families to send their children to the schools of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit, *McCall v. Scott*, seeks to challenge the constitutionality of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, which would result in the loss of this important educational opportunity for thousands of students; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship is a key component of the state's education system, providing an opportunity for low-income families to send their children to the schools of their choice; and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit, *McCall v. Scott*, seeks to challenge the constitutionality of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship, which would result in the loss of this important educational opportunity for thousands of students; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship is a key component of the state's education system, providing an opportunity for low-income families to send their children to the schools of their choice; and

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 14-115 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, opposing the lawsuit, *McCall v. Scott*, and respectfully urges the above-named plaintiffs to withdraw it for the good of the students and low-income families who depend on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship to attend the schools of their choice.

Good Cause  
W.A.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-115  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA TAX SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL CHOICE**

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) is a leading innovator in a state whose Strategic Education Plan establishes a goal to "expand choice options" to all students; and

**WHEREAS**, MDCPS offers a rich array of learning options, including magnet and choice schools, charter schools, and career and professional academies; and

**WHEREAS**, MDCPS has one of the most diverse student populations in the country including a high percentage of students from low-income families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship was created in 2001 to provide a unique learning option for students from low-income families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Credit Scholarship now serves thousands of students attending numerous private schools in Miami-Dade; students who come from households with an average income below the poverty line; and

**WHEREAS**, according to standardized tests required by the state, scholarship students statewide are among the worst performers in their public schools when they leave them, but then once on the program they achieve learning gains similar to students of all incomes, including those from higher-income families; and

**WHEREAS**, independent research from Northwestern University has shown that the public schools statewide most impacted by the loss of scholarship students are themselves showing significant test-score gains among low-income students; and

**WHEREAS**, while MDCPS has been nationally recognized for its great strides in improving the quality of education and educational choices for low-income families, others Florida school districts lag far behind; and

**WHEREAS**, after 13 years of successful Tax Credit Scholarship operations, the Florida Education Association, Florida School Boards Association, Florida Association of School Administrators and others filed a lawsuit on August 28, 2014, seeking to shut down the program and potentially remove nearly 69,000 low-income students from the schools of their choice.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

The Miami-Dade County School Board opposes this lawsuit, *McCall v. Scott*, and respectfully urges the above-named plaintiffs to withdraw it for the good of the students and low-income families who depend on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship to attend the schools of their choice.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this tenth day of December, A.D. 2014**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent and reliable data collection processes to support effective decision-making.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in data management and analysis. It discusses how modern software solutions can streamline data collection, storage, and reporting, thereby improving efficiency and accuracy.

### 4. Data Security and Privacy Considerations

4. The fourth part of the document addresses the critical issues of data security and privacy. It stresses the importance of implementing robust security measures to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access and breaches.

### 5. Data Governance and Compliance

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the importance of data governance and compliance with relevant regulations. It outlines the key principles and practices that ensure data is managed responsibly and in accordance with legal requirements.

6. The sixth part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations. It emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to data management that integrates all the discussed aspects for optimal organizational performance.