

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: IMPROVING STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION THROUGH  
ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENT**

Miami-Dade County Public School 2015-2020 Strategic Blueprint 2020 Vision targets the goal of Student Achievement, supported by five pillars, which emphasize among other objectives, the importance of providing a healthy environment, health education and communication.

As a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, all public and private healthcare providers and other eligible professionals (EP) were required to adopt and demonstrate "meaningful use" of electronic medical records (EMR) by January 1, 2014. It also included financial incentives for healthcare providers who complied. According to a 2003 study by the American Journal of Medicine using an EMR system instead of paper records can result in a positive return on financial investment.

In September of 2005, The Children's Trust's Board of Directors created a children's health initiative called Health Connect in Our Schools (HCiOS). This initiative is a comprehensive program aimed at improving child and adolescent health in Miami-Dade County. The goal of HCiOS is to increase the community's efforts to improve health outcomes for children through health education, health promotion, and accessible health care. Currently, under Health Connect, there are 145 school health program service sites throughout Miami Dade County Public Schools. The Children's Trust, The Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County, and Miami Dade County Public Schools collaborate to connect students and families to community providers who staff at the 145 school clinics with have licensed medical professionals. The licensed medical staff are hired by The Children's Trust and six community providers at the school sites. Medical staff provide a wide range of services for students based on their chief complaints, and symptoms and conduct assessments, diagnosis, treatment for certain conditions, formulation of health plans, and consultative medical services. These medical services at schools supports the communities need for wider access to healthcare services.

In keeping with HCiOS's goal of improving the health outcomes for children, we must strive to have better access and more transparency to student's medical records through electronic health records (EHR).

Additionally, the District, directly provides for nursing services for the education of students with disabilities for whom such services have been identified as necessary to access education. These services include RNs and LPN's, who provide services authorized for their specific personal and discipline to students with disabilities, ages three through twenty-two. Nursing personal at our schools provide services throughout over 230 schools, some of which have a large exceptional student population.

Due to the different layers of health services provided throughout our schools, information pertaining to student health is not maintained in a standardized format throughout the different providers and medical information is mostly maintained in a manual log system.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent of Schools to collaborate with all of our school-based health care service providers to establish a "Centralized Health Record System" for student medical records, which would allow access to convenient seamless medical care for students. Additionally, such system would provide parents of M-DCPS students, whose children receive medical care at one of the 145 school sites or have assigned nursing services to have access to their child's medical record through the use of a "Centralized Health Record System". A M-DCPS centralized electronic health record system would allow parents to have instant access to the student's health information. This type of centralized health system would also improve access and communication between schools and students' care provider(s).

An On-line health record technology has been widely accepted in the community, and it is currently available around the globe. This technology has been used to access information in real time through secure electronic access systems.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. Establish a collaboration with the Children's Trust's Health Initiative – Health Connect in Our Schools and their health care providers to explore the feasibility of a centralized health record system to improve student health; and
2. Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to review District contracted in-school nursing healthcare services and explore the feasibility of the establishment of a centralized health record system for students through the District's contracted health service providers.