

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO ENGAGE M-DCPS SCIENCE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN A DATA COLLECTION EFFORT TO ASSIST MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR SCIENCE-BASED MOSQUITO MONITORING PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

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

As the transmission of Zika continues to escalate in Miami-Dade County, it is vital to devise and implement an effective plan that will combat this virus and protect all neighborhoods equally. After reviewing the Miami-Dade County's 2016 Zika Plan, it is clear that the traps and locations to detect mosquito landings have been selected based solely on complaints and mainly affluent neighborhoods have been served.

As our parents, teachers, and residents are legitimately concerned that the operations of our county's Mosquito Control Division (MCD) are proving inefficient, this is the time for intergovernmental collaboration to create a science-based plan to win this battle.

We need to know where the mosquitoes that transmit Zika are breeding and an effective way to accomplish this is by engaging our science teachers and students to collect data aiming to identify the areas where the mosquito species that spread Zika (*Aedes Aegypti* and *Aedes Albopictus*) are prevalent. Geographically, M-DCPS sites directly provide a countywide capacity to collect scientific data that will be very useful to the MCD. Once infestations are discovered, the MCD experts can strategically direct their fumigation efforts to prevent transmission of the virus to humans.

While at M-DCPS we have been working with the Health Department to educate our parents, students, and teachers about Zika, it is essential to secure a new level of intergovernmental cooperation. As such, Governor Rick Scott has been informed and encouraged to endorse this initiative and provide what funding may be necessary. This is an opportunity to align our STEM curriculum with everyday research that may impact our students by teaching them the significance of collecting scientific data for the wellbeing of all our communities.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, through the Superintendent, determine the feasibility and best practices to engage science teachers and students in a data collection effort that will identify where the Zika-transmitting mosquitoes are prevalent in Miami-Dade County.