

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ESOL PARENT GUIDE FOR THE ENGLISH LEARNER'S
PATHWAY TO EDUCATION IN M-DCPS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is a unique multicultural school system made up of students, parents and staff from nations across the globe. Approximately 356,000 students are enrolled in schools throughout the district. Many of these students use a language other than English as a primary language. In fact, about 150 various languages are spoken in our district. Over 240,000 students are Latino, 68,000 are classified as English Learners (ELs), and approximately 26,000 are foreign-born immigrant students that have attended a US school for less than three years.

M-DCPS provides a world-class education to these students through several innovative programs in order to accelerate language acquisition and achieve grade level proficiency. ELs have demonstrated their success in these programs in several ways, but perhaps the most significant is their increase in academic achievement in both the Florida Standards Assessments and the End-of-Course assessments.

A critical component in the success of all students is the participation and support of parents and other members of the family. When this support is present, students can make greater strides. In the case of ELs, there is an added benefit: the transfer of language skills from the child to the family. Also, for families of ELs, there is a great deal of information that they need to know and understand, including basic tips on ways to navigate our school system, how their children are identified as English Learners, the kinds of programs available for ELs, keeping track of their children's progress, and the criteria for exiting out of services, among others. A comprehensive parent guide will provide parents and guardians with useful and vital information about these topics. It will help them communicate with their children's school, ask the right questions, and, most importantly, support their children on their journey as English Learners.

The School Board Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved the item for legal sufficiency.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

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

1. Develop a guide for parents of English Learners to facilitate access to information.
2. Provide an update to the Board no later than the Board Meeting of January, 2018.