

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: CENSUS 2020

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Accurate Census data are of paramount importance to our nation. Our future prosperity and well-being depend upon the quality of the crucial information collected by the Census Bureau about our population and infrastructure. Census data guide a wide range of decisions made in the public and private sectors that affect the lives of all Americans. They are used to ensure the effective and proportional allocation of billions of dollars in federal, state and local funding. Local and state government officials and staff rely upon the Census Bureau for data that show where population growth justifies building a new school, or where particular resources, such as English language instructional programs for students, are most needed. Reliable Census data also ensures fair and representative reapportionment and redistricting, and the just application of civil rights protections such as the provisions of the Voting Rights Act that require language assistance in elections where large numbers of U.S. citizens are not yet fully fluent in English.

The 2020 Census has the potential to be the most innovative decennial census in modern history, harnessing unprecedented use of technology, including Internet response, digital mapping and imagery to update address lists, and administrative data to reduce the cost of address list updating and field operations. If successful, these new methods and operational reforms could save taxpayers \$5 billion over the lifecycle of the 2020 Census and produce a more cost-efficient and accurate census.

However, if not fully researched and thoughtfully implemented, these proposed changes could hurt the accuracy of Census enumeration, particularly in Miami-Dade County. Communities that have been most often missed and undercounted in previous Census surveys include key constituencies of the Miami-Dade County Public School system: Latinos and African Americans, residents with immigrant origins, and people who speak languages other than English. For example, in 2010, more than 7% of all Latino children aged 0-4 nationwide were not counted in the decennial Census; with approximately 18,000 child residents missed, Miami-Dade County had the third-highest total number of uncounted children of all counties in the country. If our residents are undercounted, funding and planning for our schools will suffer direct and negative consequences.

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Education Fund is convening roundtables of stakeholders across communities in the country which had a significant undercount of children in the 2010 census. The roundtables will take place in California, Texas, New York and Florida. In the state Florida, the NALEO Education Fund will concentrate on Orange County, Osceola County, and Miami-Dade County where there is a higher population of immigrant communities.

On February 6, 2018, the NALEO Education Fund will be hosting the 2020 Census Education Roundtable in Miami to address the critical issue for the region, the need for a full and accurate count of Hispanic children in our community. Policymakers, including members of the Miami-Dade County School Board, will be participating in the discussion. This item seeks to authorize the Superintendent to collaborate with the NALEO Education Fund for the upcoming 2020 Census Education Roundtable scheduled to be held in Miami on February 6, 2018. Fair and accurate Census enumeration will, in turn, ensure that Miami-Dade County Public Schools receive the resources, support, and information needed to provide the best possible education to all of our children.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to collaborate with the NALEO Education Fund for the upcoming 2020 Census Education Roundtable scheduled to be held in Miami on February 6, 2018.