

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

SUBJECT: LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCESS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

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

The School Board of Miami-Dade County is responsible for the operation, control, and supervision of all public schools within Miami-Dade County. We are committed to the adoption and implementation of policies and practices that ensure the safety of students, employees, and all stakeholders. Recent school incidents throughout the nation have led us to reevaluate existing safety and security measures, with the primary goal of identifying opportunities for improvement in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).

Board Policy 8405 *School Safety* states the Superintendent shall develop a Critical Incident Plan with input from representatives of the local law enforcement agencies. After that, the Superintendent shall convene a meeting periodically to review the Critical Incident Plan, and making modifications as deemed necessary and proper; identifying additional training that might be needed; and discussing any other such related matters as may be deemed to be necessary by the participants.

One area of increasing concern is gaining school-site access for law enforcement officers during an incident where a lockdown takes place. Lockdowns are utilized in response to an immediate threat posed to students and staff. Standard lockdown procedures state that all teachers are to close and lock classroom doors and shutters/windows. Staff and students located in open areas are to report to the nearest classroom or secure area. No movement in the building will be permitted after students, staff, and guests have been sequestered in rooms.

During an emergency, law enforcement needs quick, unimpeded access to the scene. During a lockdown, many of the areas in the school are inaccessible. School administrators and local law enforcement officials must work together to review current lockdown procedures to ensure necessary school-site access for law enforcement officers.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. SUSIE V. CASTILLO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to review current procedures during school lockdowns to ensure appropriate school-site access for law enforcement officers.