

Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL PACKAGE FOR PARENTS OF ENGLISH LEARNERS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Parents play a significant role in the students' participation and academic achievement. To effectively do so, parents need to understand how to navigate through the school system and find information necessary for the success of the student; including everything from student services to additional opportunities available to our students. All this information empowers parents with not only an understanding of our system but also to be a voice for their children.

This information, for the most part, is common knowledge for parents who have attended our schools many years and are familiar with the processes. However, this is seldom the case for parents of recently migrated children who are engaging with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) for the first time. Therefore, migrant students are at a disadvantage among the students who are reaping the benefits of their parent's involvement and knowledge of the school system.

At the time of registration, schools provide parents and students with information. However, this information is not as complete as it needs to be for someone engaging with M-DCPS for the first time. There is also a lack of uniformity across the schools in the manner they deliver the information with some of it being verbal, some in writing, and some by directing the parents to our district website. As a result, information is difficult to find.

At the November 2017 School Board Meeting, agenda item H-14, ESOL Parent Guide for the English Learner's Pathway to Education in M-DCPS proffered by Ms. Lubby Navarro addressed developing a guide for parents of English Learners (EL) to facilitate access to information. As a result, M-DCPS currently has a pamphlet that provides EL parents with information about the EL program and assistance available to them, in Spanish and Creole. However, this pamphlet does not include other vital information necessary to navigate the school system properly.

This item proposes the development of an informational package that parents of English Learners would receive at the time of registration. This package would include copies of the Parent Guide, M-DCPS Frequently Asked Questions and the Student Code of Conduct in their preferred language. By providing parents with a physical copy of this information, we would ensure all students have equal access to information about our school system.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to develop an informational package for parents of English Learners to receive as part of the registration process at Miami-Dade County Public Schools.