

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD'S 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Elected bodies sometimes must travel, as a group, to meet with government officials in order to advocate for the needs of their community. The benefit of group advocacy is in the strengthened message, its efficiency, and effectiveness. Advocacy demonstrates an organization's support for a cause or issue. It is a vehicle for the community's voice to be heard.

Recently, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, engaged in lengthy discussions pertaining to the implications of group advocacy. Currently, there are inconsistent legal interpretations. There is a need to provide clarification in order for the Board to proceed with effective advocacy strategies.

One solution to this would be for the State Legislature to amend the Florida Statutes and give clear direction that group advocacy by an elected body and appropriately advertised, is permissible under the Florida Sunshine Law.

The purpose of this item is to modify the 2019 State Legislative Agenda to include an amendment to Florida law clarifying that group advocacy by an elected body is consistent and is allowed under Florida Sunshine Law.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTA PEREZ:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, amend its' 2019 State Legislative Agenda to include an amendment to Florida law clarifying that group advocacy by an elected body is permissible under Florida's Sunshine Law.