

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

**SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' SUPPORT FOR CENSUS 2020**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

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

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) recognizes and embraces its role, responsibility, and benefit to the greater community and related causes. As one of the leading and largest entities in Miami-Dade County, M-DCPS' engagement in efforts to educate students, improve the quality of life throughout the community, and increase county and community wide resources that serve to assist and support all residents.

One significant endeavor that is inextricably linked to supporting the above efforts is the United States Census. As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the nation is required each decade to count its population. The U.S. census counts every resident in the United States. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution and takes place every 10 years. The data collected by the census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives (a process called apportionment) and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities, including Miami-Dade County.

The U.S. Census collects data to be use for reasons that include but are not limited to the following:

- Redistricting
- Forecasting and funding future transportation
- Determine areas for housing assistance
- Assisting in the funding and implementing programs and services for:
  - Education
  - Healthcare
  - Social Services
  - Emergency Response

M-DCPS has consistently played an active leadership role in supporting the U.S. Census. In fact, School Board Chairwoman Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman proffered School Board Agenda Item H-9 at the School Board Meeting of November 17, 2009. This item requested that the School Board support 2010 Census Outreach Campaign to promote community-wide participation in the 2010 Census, and that the Superintendent partner with local government entities to assist in such efforts.

The 2020 Census will require counting an increasingly diverse and growing population of around 330 million people in more than 140 million housing units. To get an accurate count, the Census Bureau must build an accurate address list of every housing unit, maximize self-response to the census, and efficiently follow up with those who do not respond. The support and participation of entities such as M-DCPS is critical to a successful census data collection and outreach program and process.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, support the U.S. Census Bureau Outreach Campaign to promote community-wide participation in the 2020 Census, and request the Superintendent to partner with local government entities to assist in these efforts.