

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

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**SUBJECT: SCHEDULED SCHOOL DAY**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for all students. In doing so, it adopts and supports the implementation of proven, evidence-based practices for teaching and learning, and the provision of appropriate resources and supports for teaching and students.

As a result, M-DCPS continues to realize significant improvements and strides in student learning and performance. Presently, there are no "F" school in M-DCPS and the Board, Superintendent, teachers, parents, staff, students, and community continue to work collaboratively to further advance even higher levels of learning and achievement for students.

In addition to curriculum and instructional quality, research has consistently proven that another significant factor that contributes to student learning and success is instructional time. Thus, M-DCPS must continue to take any and all appropriate steps to maximize and protect learning time for students.

Mandatory school closures required by declarations of emergencies usually from hurricanes and/or other natural incidents that may jeopardize the safety of children and/or adults often results in students losing valuable instructional time. Such closures and/or modifications to the scheduled school day should be thereto limited. No events or activities other than state of emergencies or natural disasters that would jeopardize the safety of children and/or adults should be considered in the closing of schools and/or modification of the scheduled school day.

**Revised  
H-16**

In fact, School Board Policy 8420, *Emergency Closing of Schools*, stipulates that “The emergency closing of school(s) for any cause, such as inclement weather or violent or disruptive activities in which the safety of individuals might be endangered, shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent...and When an emergency necessitates the closing of a school(s), the members of the Board shall be notified immediately of the action taken and the reason for the action.” Thus, school closures and/or the modification of the scheduled school day shall be governed as stipulated above. School schedules are established in accordance with applicable school board policies and provisions governing collective bargaining.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to affirm the Board's position on this matter, issue directives as appropriate, and initiate rulemaking to establish and/or amend School Board Policy, where necessary.

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, direct the Superintendent to:

1. limit mandatory school closures to those required by declarations of emergencies usually from hurricanes and/or other natural incidents that may jeopardize the safety of children and/or adults and in a manner stipulated in School Board Policy 8420;
2. issue directives regarding same as appropriate; and
3. initiate rulemaking to establish and/or amend School Board Policy, where necessary.