

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT:           ADVOCATE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE FUNDING HOLD HARMLESS FOR THE FULL FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AND A HOLD HARMLESS ON THE CONSEQUENCES RELATED TO THE STATE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

**COMMITTEE:       FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION**

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

The safety and security of all students, parents, and staff has always been of paramount importance for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. During this pandemic, ensuring student and staff safety is especially critical. Despite the District's efforts, since reopening on Monday, October 5, 2020, reports of staff and students who are suspected of being positive or who have tested positive for COVID-19 have begun to surface. As a result of staff and student positive testing, classrooms and sometimes even entire schools have had to close. Unfortunately, this may be the "new normal" for our schools and schools throughout the state for the remaining school year and perhaps longer.

The closure of classrooms and/or schools creates an unstable learning environment for our students and detrimentally impacts our community. The Commissioner's Executive Order provides protection from funding losses through the first half of the fiscal year, but not for the entire year, exposing the school district to potential fiscal liability due to loss in student enrollment. Further, we may be subject to a reduced dollar value for approximately 51 percent of students whose parents have conscientiously chosen remote learning through My School Online.

The US Department of Education has already signaled that no waivers will be granted from the requirement of statewide assessments, even though the expected closures of classrooms and schools is disruptive to the learning environment. Lamentably, Florida's accountability system is high stakes with the issuance of school grades, student retention, withholding of graduation, and a threat of privatization. During times such as this, when families struggle with unemployment, foreclosures or evictions, food insecurity, remote learning, school or classroom closures, the state should use the 2021 administration of the Florida Standards Assessment as a new baseline to guide student instruction and teacher professional development and suspend the consequences typically associated with its administration. Parents and students in the community are extremely concerned with impact of these assessments.

**Good Cause  
H-23**

Good cause exists to vary from the published agenda because issues concerning the opening and such issues are of immediate and significant public importance to advocate for a funding hold harmless for the entire fiscal year and the suspension of the consequences associated with the administration of the statewide assessments.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request the Superintendent to advocate for:

1. an extension of reporting and funding flexibility included as part of Executive Order 2020-EO-6 issued by the Commissioner of Education for the entire school year; and
2. suspension of the sanctions related to third grade promotion, end-of-course exam calculations, graduation test requirements, teacher evaluations for 2020-2021, and school/district grades.