

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ESSER & ARP FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**PLAN: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OPERATIONAL PRACTICES**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County remains committed to promoting and maintaining a high level of accountability, integrity, and transparency in the operation of the school district, including those that involve expenditures, procurement, and related financial matters. In fact, the ultimate authority and as a result, accountability rests with the School Board, as stipulated in F.S. 1001.42. Thus, the School Board must continue to work collaboratively with the Superintendent in developing a cohesive, yet comprehensive plan of action for the use of funds allocated to the District through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and any and all related federal stimulus funding. In doing so, it must provide continuous and strong leadership, direction, and engagement that ensures that all resources and federal funds are targeted and used as intended and include measures that ensure proper planning, budgeting, accountability, transparency, and impact.

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the 117<sup>th</sup> United States Congress. Its intent was to speed up the United States recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing recession which was educed as a consequence. First proposed on January 14, 2021, the package built upon many of the measures in the CARES Act from March 2020 and in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 from December 2020. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided \$1,400 direct payments to individuals making up to \$75,000 annually, \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments and \$14 billion for vaccine distribution. It also provided \$130 billion to elementary, middle and high schools to assist with safe reopening, with Florida receiving approximately \$7.4 billion. Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the state's largest school district and having the highest proportion of economically disadvantaged students, was awarded \$1.1 billion.

Subsequent to the award of these and related funds, the District has sought to enhance its capacity to mitigate and address the unprecedented adverse impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on its students and their learning and in a manner that addresses their academic, social, and emotional needs exacerbated in large part by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the School Board is ultimately responsible for the requisite and appropriate use of these and related funds, an update on the expenditure of related funds to date will provide for transparency, prudence, and enhanced accountability. This will provide an opportunity for the School Board to review and discuss these expenditures to date, evaluate their impact, and where appropriate, consider and make future amendments and/or recommendations regarding the same.

Thus, this item directs the Superintendent to provide an update on the expenditures to date funded through CARES Act from March 2020 and in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 from December 2020, and The American Rescue Plan Act award allocations in a detailed presentation, which includes data regarding amounts and expenditures by disparate categories cited in the Comprehensive Disparity Study Final Report that was submitted to M-DCPS by Miller3 Consulting, Inc. (“2021 Disparity Study”) and accepted by the School Board on September 9, 2021 at the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee Meeting of August 10, 2022 and to provide any recommendations for any amendments to relevant Board policies or revisions of District practices and/or future recommendations to be considered by the School Board.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney for legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. STEVE GALLON III:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. provide an update on the expenditures to date funded through CARES Act from March 2020 and in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 from December 2020, and The American Rescue Plan Act award allocations in a detailed presentation, which includes data regarding amounts and expenditures by disparate categories cited in the Comprehensive Disparity Study Final Report that was submitted to M-DCPS by Miller3 Consulting, Inc. (“2021 Disparity Study”) and accepted by the School Board on September 9, 2021 at the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee Meeting of August 10, 2022; and
2. provide any recommendations for any amendments to relevant Board policies or revisions of District practices and/or future recommendations to be considered by the School Board.