


MEMORANDUM

October 10, 2018

TO: The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: STAFF FOLLOW-UP: SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF JULY 25, 2018, AGENDA ITEM H-13, CHILDCARE BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES

At the School Board meeting of July 25, 2018, the Board approved Agenda Item H-13, proffered by School Board Member Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall and co-sponsored unanimously. This item requested the Superintendent to 1) explore the feasibility of implementing high-quality childcare at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) sites at a reduced cost for District personnel and 2) report findings and suggestions to the Board by October 10, 2018.

The provision of quality early learning experiences is important for all children. As such, where possible, M-DCPS has launched programs that serve both the greater community as well as District employees. The District currently offers several early childhood programs for infants and toddlers. These include Early Head Start, Head Start, United Way Early Head Start, Reverse-Mainstream, the Infant & Toddler Center at Zelda Glazer, and several Career and Technical Education early childhood programs with childcare centers.

- The **Early Head Start (EHS) Program**, in partnership with Miami-Dade County, provides services for children from birth through age 3 from income-eligible families at six school sites in the District.
- The **Head Start (HS) Program**, in partnership with Miami-Dade County, also provides multi-level classes for 3-year-old students and 4-year-old VPK students from income-eligible families. This program is available in 34 schools across the District.
- The **United Way Early Head Start Program**, located at three school sites in the District, is open to children between birth and age 2 from income-eligible families.
- The **Reverse-Mainstream Program** provides an opportunity for typically developing children ages 3 to 5 to serve as role models in full-day or half-day inclusive early childhood programs that serve children with special needs. Families interested in scheduling a role model screening appointment for the Reverse-Mainstream Program should contact the school they are interested in that offers the Program.

- The **Fee-Based Infant & Toddler Center** at Zelda Glazer provides quality early care education for infants and toddlers, birth to 3 years old.
- The **Career and Technical Education Early Childcare Programs** offer students enrolled in our career-themed courses the opportunity to apply hands-on experiences at six on-site childcare centers licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for infants and toddlers, from birth to 5 years old. These centers are equipped with developmentally appropriate materials and modern technology relevant to the program. Enrollment capacity is based on the size of the individual childcare center.

In order to raise awareness of the availability of these programs, information will be posted on the District website under Employee Resources. A listing of the current early learning programs is also attached for your information. Further, staff will continue to explore other opportunities for expanding high-quality childcare services for children ages 0-5 which may be available for employees' children at additional school sites across the District.

Moving forward, as shared during the 2018-2019 New Product Rollout on August 8, 2018, we are launching a Pre-K Everywhere initiative with the goal of providing additional early learning classrooms, thereby transforming M-DCPS into a Pre-K-12 District. As part of this initiative, staff is in the process of conducting a feasibility study, including identifying and evaluating suitable space, surveying interest and need, and reviewing cost estimates and budget implications. Subject to the findings of the feasibility study, our goal is to launch the program in the 2020-2021 school year.

If you have any questions regarding the District's early childhood program offerings, please contact Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451.

AMC:sr
M364

Attachment

cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet
School Board Agenda Office