

If children are not in school, they cannot learn. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has taken bold, aggressive steps to “Rethink Discipline.” Addressing the causes of student behavior while also embracing the emotional, social, health, personal, and career development needs of all students has been and continues to be among the District’s educational priorities.

Initiatives such as *iAttend* urge students to get to school every day and encourage the support of parents as partners with the District. M-DCPS has also provided an innovative option for off-track, high-promise students in targeted middle schools to engage in hands-on service learning and youth engagement experiences through a unique social-emotional elective course called Civic Engagement through Service Learning.

A hallmark of the District’s efforts to ensure all students receive uninterrupted instruction, regardless of behavioral challenges, is the creation of education-focused Student Success Centers for secondary students. In August of 2015, M-DCPS became one of the few, if not the first, school districts in the nation to eliminate traditional outdoor suspensions, moving to a system that helps students understand the consequences of disruptive behavior while not depriving them of valuable instructional time. The centers provide an option for schools to refer identified students to educational and counseling services.

While Student Success Centers are a viable option to simply removing students from school for infractions, changing an established pattern that addresses discipline is difficult and often time-consuming work that cannot be accomplished overnight. It takes the development of prevention and intervention strategies, cross-agency collaboration, funding, and community and parental engagement. M-DCPS will continue to do this work to give every child an opportunity to succeed. To learn more please visit **XXXXX**. Students or parents who feel that discipline is being administered in a way that does not allow for continuity of education are asked to call 305-995-1270.