

# 2016/17 NEW ACHIEVEMENTS @MDCPS



Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) ongoing tradition of achievement has garnered international, national and state honors. Innovation, rigor, access, and efficiency are at the core of M-DCPS' bold new education programs and initiatives. This year, M-DCPS added these accomplishments to its growing list of accolades:

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- 1 Historic Achievement Levels:** 66 percent of all schools earned an "A" or a "B" grade and for the first time ever, there were no "F" schools as reported by the Florida Department of Education.
- 2 Record-Breaking Graduation Rate:** Despite more rigorous standards, M-DCPS' graduation rate continues to rise, increasing to 84.2 percent (excluding charter schools).
- 3 Excellence in College Board SAT Exams:** Seniors outshined counterparts in Florida with increased scores in reading, math and writing.
- 4 High Schools Among America's Best:** Home to seven of the top 100 high schools in the country and half of the schools in Florida's Top 20, as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- 5 Record Number of Associate Degrees:** After successful completion of university-level courses, 390 seniors received a high school degree as well as an Associate's degree, a 14 percent increase from last year. Nearly 7,000 students in middle and high school participated in dual enrollment classes.
- 6 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diplomas:** Over the last two years, the number of students earning an IB diploma increased to 78 percent.
- 7 Nationally-Recognized NAF Academies:** Academies received more Distinguished and Model designations from the National Academy Foundation (NAF) than any other school district in the nation.

## VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

- 8 Excellence in Financial Reporting:** For the 32nd consecutive year, the School Board was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- 9 Prestigious National Appointment:** Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho was appointed to serve on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Committee.

## AWARDS

- 10 Magnet Programs Shine Nationwide:** For the sixth straight year, earned more Magnet Schools of America (MSA) Merit Awards than any other school district in the nation, receiving 42 awards. Added 59 new choice/magnet programs, bringing the total to more than 900.
- 11 National Leader in Magnet Sustainability:** Honored with the Donna Grady-Creer Award by MSA for exemplifying a commitment to equity, excellence and diversity, supporting and promoting magnet programs.
- 12 Inaugural NAF President's Award:** Winner of the highest national award for choice districts, recognizing the work carried out to prepare students for college and career readiness.
- 13 Stellar Cambridge Programs:** Students in nine Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) high schools received Cambridge Scholar Awards for their top scores on these rigorous assessments, including top in the U.S. and top in the world.
- 14 Protecting and Securing Student Data:** Awarded the coveted Trusted Learning Environment Seal for implementing student data privacy protections.
- 15 International Language Recognition:** Four schools received "LabelFrancEducation" certification by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for offering enhanced French instruction, more than any other school district in the nation.

## DIGITAL CONVERGENCE

- 16 Increased Technology:** Additional 35,000 mobile devices distributed, bringing total number of devices in schools to nearly 140,000. Classrooms were upgraded with 900 new interactive white boards and 8,000 desktop computers for teachers.
- 17 Expansion of CONNECT@HOME Program:** For the first time, more than 500 Pre-K students at 20 elementary schools received laptops to use at home. Many of the devices also included free Internet access.

## INITIATIVES

- 18 Reduction in Testing:** Mid-year interim tests in English language arts and math for students in grades 3 to 8 were eliminated, representing a reduction of 12 tests and an addition of 185 minutes of class time.
- 19 STEM Designation:** 93 schools earned either Bronze, Silver, or Gold STEM designations, reaffirming ongoing growth and promotion in the areas of STEAM and STEM.
- 20 Digital Citizenship:** Encouraged responsible use of social media to all schools through the #MDCPSPostsPositive video contest, student forums, social media campaigns and age-appropriate curriculum.
- 21 Values Matter Miami:** Expanded, year-long districtwide campaign promoted positive school culture by addressing the social and emotional needs of students in partnership with community-based organizations.
- 22 Betsy Kaplan Music Education Project:** Nearly \$500,000 invested in seven schools in underserved communities to provide students with comprehensive music education and strengthen performing arts programs.
- 23 Pathways to Biliteracy:** 406 seniors earned the Seal of Biliteracy designation, recognizing high-level competency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in two or more languages.
- 24 Counselor on Duty Program:** Awareness campaign developed to promote the vital role that school counselors play in supporting students and collaborating with parents, teachers, administrators and community organizations.

## SOUND FINANCIAL PRACTICES

- 25 Tax Savings:** Since the inception of the GOB, county residents have realized lower School Board debt related property tax rates than originally anticipated, with total tax savings of approximately \$20 million, due to the District's prudent financial management.
- 26 Long-Term Financial Rating Increase:** Standard and Poor's Global Ratings (S&P) raised our long-term rating for the first time in more than 20 years from "A+" to "AA-" with a stable outlook, further validating sound fiscal practices and effective operations.
- 27 Healthcare Bluebook Provides Savings:** Healthcare Bluebook, a mobile tool enabling employees to find low-cost and high-quality healthcare, has reduced District healthcare program costs by approximately \$900,000 and provided nearly \$230,000 in cash incentives to employees.

## GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (GOB) & ECONOMIC IMPACT

- 28 New Miami Norland Senior High Opens its Doors:** Representing the largest single GOB investment, the \$42 million Miami Norland Senior welcomed students in August 2016.
- 29 GOB Progress:** GOB expenditures and contracted work totaled approximately \$550.3 million, with more than 148 projects completed by the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

## COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS

- 30 Career and Technical Education:** Largest career and technical enrollment in Florida, with 111,700 students taking courses in technical programs and career academies. Seventy-three different certifications are offered.
- 31 Summer Youth Internship Program:** Nearly 1,500 students participated in this initiative, which expanded learning beyond the confines of a traditional classroom and allowed students to be engaged in both project and community-based learning experiences.
- 32 Innovative Middle School Dual Enrollment Programs:** Ponce de Leon and Hialeah Gardens middle schools offer college dual enrollment courses in collaboration with Florida International University and Miami Dade College.
- 33 Millions in Scholarships:** The graduating class of 2017 was offered more than \$370,000,000 in college scholarships, paving the way for success in post-secondary education.

## NOTABLE ALUMNI

- 34 Olympic Gold Medalist:** Brianna Rollins, a Miami Northwestern Senior alumna and an Olympian, was honored with her own day by her alma mater and the Miami-Dade community.
- 35 Oscar-Winning Movie:** Miami Northwestern Senior alumnus Barry Jenkins and New World School of the Arts alumnus Tarell Alvin McCraney won the 2017 Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for Moonlight. The Best Picture winner also featured talent from Norland Middle School and Miami Northwestern.

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