

January 4, 1999

Betsy H. Kaplan, Member

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO 1999 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Currently, if a student participates in a high school fine arts class, our public universities do not recognize their achievements in the calculation of grade point averages. Instead, for admissions to a Florida institution or for eligibility for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships, a student's GPA is recalculated with only English, Math, Science, Foreign Language and Social Studies. Despite the fact that fine arts credits are a requirement for a high school and a college degree, all fine arts grades are factored out in determining a student's G.P.A.

Last year, legislation was filed by Senator John Grant and Representative Evelyn Lynn to correct this policy by requiring the public universities of Florida to include fine arts in their G.P.A. calculations. This legislation received endorsements from Education Commissioner Frank Brogan, the Florida PTA, the Florida Junior League, the Florida Higher Education Arts Network, the Florida Music Educators Association and others.

New bills are being drafted for consideration during the 1999 Legislative Session. Grades in art should be included in the factoring of grade point averages for the purpose of making public university admissions decisions and awarding Florida Bright Future Scholarships.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

BETSY H. KAPLAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County amend its 1999 Legislative Program to include the requirement of Florida's public universities to include fine arts in G.P.A. calculations.

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