

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENT REQUIREMENT THAT STUDENTS BE DRUG-TESTED ANNUALLY, PRIOR TO ENTERING SIXTH THROUGH TWELFTH GRADES, COMMENCING WITH THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR

The proliferation of drug abuse among adolescents who are students in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), and across the nation, continues to pose serious threats to the health, safety and well-being of the victims, their families, M-DCPS staff and the community at large. Although M-DCPS has led the State of Florida in a range of programs which address drug abuse, gaps remain in the efforts to ensure that students are certifiably drug free when they enter school at the beginning of each year.

Proposed is the implementation of a requirement that students be drug-tested, prior to entering school each year, from the sixth through the twelfth grades, commencing with the 2000-2001 school year. Under the aegis of this program, parents would be required, prior to the start of each school year, to supply the appropriate school site with a "drug-tested" certificate, obtained from an approved medical or drug testing physician/agency. Test results would be known only to parents. If implemented, it is anticipated that this program could become the model for new State legislation, ultimately affecting every school district in Florida.

This program would assist administrators and staff in ensuring drug-free environments at all school sites. The improved climates of the schools notwithstanding, parents and students would be assured that learning would be taking place in settings which neither enroll nor tolerate drugs and other harmful substances. It is anticipated that this program would send strong messages to parents and students about the responsibilities inherent in parenting and safety. While the purpose of the program is to ensure a safe learning environment, it is fully expected also that the drug-testing requirement will deter youngsters from involvement in drugs.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to implement the drug-testing requirement for students, prior to entering the sixth through twelfth grades, commencing with the 2000-2001 school year.

**REPLACEMENT
B-9**