

Demetrio Pérez, Jr., M.S., Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO INFORM THE COMMUNITY ON THE IMPACT OF THE 1999 EDUCATION LEGISLATION

Subsequent to the approval of Governor Jeb Bush's "A+ Plan" and the release of the School Accountability Report by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), we have been inundated with telephone calls from parents, citizens, and other community members. Of special concern has been the significance of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) scores and the designation of schools by performance grade categories "A" through "F".

Inasmuch as the results published in FDOE's School Accountability Report impact all schools and have created a state of emergency in the community, it is requested that the School Board direct the Superintendent to develop and implement a community information campaign which should include as a minimum:

- ◆ an explanation of the meaning of the individual school performance grade categories, "A-F", in reader-friendly language that the public can easily understand;
- ◆ Miami-Dade County Public Schools' plan to address the needs of "F" and "D" schools, and to increase the number of schools scoring in the "B" and "A" categories;
- ◆ what parents and community members can do to help schools score better;
- ◆ strategies to disseminate this information to the press and to parents; and
- ◆ an explanation of the analysis of the most commonly missed FCAT test item skills.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MR. DEMETRIO PÉREZ, JR., M.S.: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to develop and implement an information campaign to inform the community on the impact of the 1999 education legislation.