

July 13, 1999

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT:           AUDIT OF TEEN-PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS  
                          AND EARLY-EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Revised

Adolescent pregnancy rates are declining, reports the Health and Human Services National Center for Health Statistics. In Florida, for example, the birthrate among 15-through-19-year-old girls has fallen from 68 per 1000 girls to 61, but there is still a need for further reductions. Fifty percent of adolescents with children become pregnant again within two years of the baby's birth, according to a University of Maryland study. The study adds that in 1996, 22 percent of births to adolescent mothers were repeat births, i.e. a second or third child. The study also found that an adolescent mother who returns to school after the first birth is less likely to have a repeat birth.

This school district must continue to combat teen pregnancy. Additionally, the need to educate all children once they are born is critical. Research has shown that children who attend high-quality early-education programs are more ready to learn once they enter elementary school and will do better academically. These are the findings proffered by researchers from the University of Colorado, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, UCLA and Yale University in their report Cost, Quality and Child Outcomes. The benefits reported in the study include better social and thinking skills, language ability, and math skills from the preschool years through elementary school. These benefits were more evident in the children of mothers who have fewer years of education.

Revised

It is recommended that the Miami-Dade County School Board direct the Superintendent of Schools to review and update all available information on this district's approach to combating teen pregnancy and this district's effort to improve early-childhood education. The Superintendent shall note what additional actions can be undertaken to improve these programs and which programs are failing to produce satisfactory results. The report shall include the district's cost in administering all programs now in place and the cost of any additional program recommended by the Superintendent. This report will be submitted to the Board no later than the Board meeting of October 20, 1999.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PÉREZ :**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent of Schools to bring back to the Board a report on this district's approach to combating teen pregnancy and its efforts to provide quality early-childhood education in agreement with the intent stated above.

Revised

REVISED  
B-7  
(formerly B-4)