

Dr. Michael M. Krop, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ACCEPT THE TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING PROFILE AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO ACT ON THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On March 17, 1999, the Miami-Dade School Board awarded a contract to the Milken Family Foundation to perform a study of the design, development and delivery of educational technology throughout the District. The results of that study are reported in *Technology and Learning: 1999 District Profile*, which the Superintendent recently transmitted. It provides us with a close look at the current status of our utilization of learning technologies in our schools, along with suggestions on what we need to do next.

Like school districts around the country, we are being challenged to evaluate how new information technologies can best be employed in the curriculum. Incorporating technologies into the educational process is an important element in improving schools and bridging the digital divide, but it must involve much more than simply wiring classrooms. The *Technology and Learning Profile* indicates that Miami-Dade County Public Schools have been willing to ask important questions, and offers a roadmap for the future deployment of technology.

The report finds that there are no inequities in technology access among student populations due to race, ethnicity or socioeconomic levels. The study also notes that we have effectively used available resources in our effort to connect all schools and classrooms to both District-wide network and the Internet. In addition, we have a strong core of technology fluent teachers, and excellent academic and vocational programs that effectively use technology.

However, it appears that the use of technology by our students varies widely from school to school, and even from classroom to classroom. Today, the experience a student has — or doesn't have — in learning with technology depends to a great extent on the individual teacher and the level of support by the school principal. To ensure that all students have opportunities in learning with technology, a systems approach to incorporating technology across all grade levels should be instituted District-wide. Now that we have the results in our hands, we should make use of it by developing a plan to act on its findings and recommendations.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MICHAEL M. KROP: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, accept the report entitled *Technology and Learning: 1999 District Profile*, and direct the Superintendent to develop a District-wide plan for the use of educational technology in our classrooms.