

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE BRIEFING PAPER: *THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY*

The Florida Legislature authorized the creation of charter schools in 1996. Section 228.056, Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, recognizes charter schools as public schools; defines the purpose; and delineates the rights and responsibilities of both the Sponsor, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and each charter school.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools established the first charter school in the State in 1996. There are currently eighteen charter schools in operation. An additional six are scheduled to open in the 2002-2003 school year. Overall, applications for a total of 59 charter schools to be opened over the next five years have been approved by the School Board.

However, Section 228.056(6), Florida Statutes, Charter Schools, establishes a limit of no more than 28 schools in each school district that has 100,000 or more students. Notwithstanding this limitation, a district School Board or a charter school applicant has the right to request an increase of the limit on the number of charter schools authorized to be established within a school district from the Florida Board of Education. A minimum of three charter school applicants have submitted formal waivers to the Florida Board of Education to have this cap lifted.

Given the restrictions imposed by the cap and in order to fully define the district's position on charter school implementation in Miami-Dade County, a briefing paper entitled, *The Impact of Public Charter Schools in Miami-Dade County*, has been developed by staff in the Division of Program Evaluation, with input from various district offices. This briefing paper will serve to help guide the future direction for the district in relation to the implementation of charter schools and represent the district's position to the community at large.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive and approve the briefing paper: *The Impact of Public Charter Schools in Miami-Dade County*.

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