

Business Operations
Joe Arriola, Chief Business Officer

SUBJECT: SCHOOL SIZE

Beginning July 1, 2003, Florida Statute Chapter 235.2157 (attached) will require that all plans for new educational facilities to be constructed within a school district and reflected in the 5-year school district facilities work plan shall be plans for small schools in order to promote increased learning and more effective use of school facilities.

A "small school" is defined as:

An elementary school with a student population of not more than 500 students, a K-8 school of not more than 700 students, a middle school of not more than 700 students, and a high school of not more than 900 students.

A school on a single campus, which operates as a "school within a school", as defined by s. 230.23 (20), shall be considered a small school if each smaller unit located on the single campus meets the requirements of this subsection.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) present Board approved facilities lists are sized as follows:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Student Stations</u>	<u>Small School Requirement (Maximum Size)</u>
Primary Learning Center	280	500
Elementary	1,045	500
K-8 School	1,593	700
Middle Learning Center	483	700
Middle School	1,495	700
Senior High School	2,858	900

The elementary, K-8, middle, and senior high school Board approved facilities lists far exceed the "small school requirement". Since it would not be cost-effective to reduce the size of the schools to the "small school requirement", it is recommended that the school district pursue the "school within a school" option.

To properly plan for a school within a school building concept the Board approved facilities lists will require modifications. This effort would be coordinated with School Operations, Curriculum, and other bureaus' staff.

The new size of schools recommended below are maximums and would not prevent the board from building smaller schools due to project specific circumstances such as site size availability, satellite school, special magnet school, etc. It is proposed that the new size of schools utilizing the school within a school concept would be approximately as follows:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Total Student Stations</u>	<u>Number and Size of Schools within a School</u>
Primary Learning Center	280	One (1) school @ 280
Elementary	1,500	Three (3) schools @ 500 each
K-8 School	2,100	Three (3) schools @ 700 each
Middle Learning Center	700	One (1) school @ 700
Middle School	2,100	Three (3) schools @ 700 each
Senior High School	3,600	Four (4) schools @ 900 each

RECOMMENDED: That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve the use of the school within a school concept and direct staff to develop new facilities lists for Board approval based on the proposed new school sizes.

WLB:dc