

Education
Mercedes Toural, Associate Superintendent

**SUBJECT: RECEIVE THE REPORT FOR INCREASING THE GRADUATION RATE
AND DECREASING THE DROPOUT RATE**

At the December 12, 2001, meeting of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Mr. Frank J. Bolaños, Board Member, requested that the Superintendent establish an Ad Hoc Committee to develop strategies to increase the graduation rate and decrease the dropout rate in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). The Ad Hoc Committee, which was formed and comprised of multiple District offices/divisions, worked with administrators, teachers, outside agencies, and parents to address student needs and generate viable solutions which would address specific goals and objectives.

Meetings were held regularly beginning in January, 2002, resulting in the development of a Districtwide Implementation Plan, 2001-2003, for Increasing the Graduation Rate and Decreasing the Dropout Rate, which details benchmarks and strategies to address the issue at hand. Several strategies have been or are being implemented, including a process of establishing a mechanism for the inclusion of FCAT test results on report cards to better inform students and parents regarding this important graduation requirement. The implementation plan builds upon the following benchmarks:

- ▶ Benchmark I – Assess the current status of the dropout rate in M-DCPS and identify best practices;
- ▶ Benchmark II – Assist schools in providing appropriate support through intervention strategies for identified potential dropout students;
- ▶ Benchmark III – Provide transition strategies for middle school students;
- ▶ Benchmark IV – Develop and implement a plan to provide appropriate instruction to students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who have not passed or are at risk of not passing the grade 10 FCAT graduation test to prepare them to meet the graduation test requirement; and
- ▶ Benchmark V – Develop curriculum frameworks for a Ninth Grade Orientation Course.

A new Ad Hoc Advisory Committee will be formed to monitor, modify, and/or add benchmarks and strategies to the Implementation Plan for Increasing the Graduation Rate and Decreasing the Dropout Rate. Each Board Member will be requested to nominate an individual to serve on the committee. The composition of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee will comprise of 51 percent non-M-DCPS employees. The monitoring by this Ad Hoc Advisory Committee will include implications that are related to the District, region, community, and school-site levels, and will include parents and other stakeholders of the larger community.

Copies of the Report will be transmitted to School Board Members and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary and the Citizen Information Center.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the report for Increasing the Graduation Rate and Decreasing the Dropout Rate.

JHM:mgr