

Dr. Robert B. Ingram, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOMMEND THE INCLUSION IN THIS UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE LOWERING THE COMPULSORY AGE OF ATTENDANCE FROM SIX (6) YEARS OF AGE TO TWO AND A HALF (2 ½) YEARS

Compulsory school attendance is required at age six (6) and permitted at age five (5) for kindergarten. However, there is overwhelming evidence and the literature is rich with research revealing that a child's most formative years is when the child is 0-4 years old.

There are approximately four million children in the State of Florida; of these, an estimated one million are under the age of five and 26% of them live in poverty. Similar demographics have fueled the argument for a national movement on behalf of our youngest, to ensure high quality early care and high quality early education, with the expectation of reducing the educational achievement gap and promoting later school success for all children.

As part of the ongoing effort to ensure that our children are afforded high quality programs, it is requested that the Board include in the upcoming legislative package lowering the compulsory age of attendance from six (6) years to two and a half (2 ½) years.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. ROBERT B. INGRAM:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recommend the inclusion in this upcoming legislative package lowering the compulsory age of attendance from six (6) years to two and a half (2 ½) years.

ITEM WITHDRAWN
(October 23, 2002)

D-6