

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2003 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Attached is a copy of the proposed State Legislative Program for the regular 2003 State Legislative Session scheduled to commence Tuesday, March 4, 2002 and continue for 60 continuous days concluding on Friday, May 2, 2003, barring any extended sessions or special sessions.

The proposed program is comprised of suggestions from School Board members, the Superintendent of Schools, staff, school-site personnel, employee groups, and citizen groups.

The program is divided into priorities, which staff will concentrate most of their efforts on, and additional issues. The priorities are categorized into four main topics:

- Funding;
- Capital Outlay Funding;
- Limited-English-Proficient Education; and
- Teacher Recruitment/Retention.

The additional issues are categorized as:

- Workforce Development;
- Other Education;
- Personnel Management;
- Facilities Management;
- Other Funding; and
- Safety.

The priorities were identified based on the district's needs and are aligned with the Board's strategic goals for preparing students from school to career, providing an effective learning environment and developing efficient management practices.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopt the proposed 2003 State Legislative Program.

MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to preparing students for graduation, post-secondary education or immediate meaningful employment so that our students become responsible citizens of this state.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

▪ FUNDING ▪

The Florida Education Finance Program, particularly in times of financial crisis, should continue to:

- compensate for **HIGHER DISTRICT COST OF LIVING** by **INCLUDING A DISTRICT COST DIFFERENTIAL**;
- allocate funds based upon actual **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)** student enrollment;
- provide that the **BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION** be based on a budgetary analysis;
- utilize **PROGRAM WEIGHTS** to account for cost variances between programs;
- continue the **EQUALIZING FEATURES** in the formula; and
- reimburse districts for actual enrollment in programs such as **ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)** and not arbitrarily cap these programs.

Adjust the **ESE GUARANTEED ALLOCATION** to reflect growth and inflation and restore Matrix-funding 253.

Maintain **SAFE SCHOOLS, SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION, and INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY** as categorical programs and increase to accommodate student enrollment and inflation.

Continue to provide additional **FLEXIBILITY** in the use of **CATEGORICAL FUNDING**.

Adjust the equalized **DISCRETIONARY MILLAGE** to reflect tax roll growth and inflation.

Provide additional funding for districts **DISPROPORTIONATELY** impacted by poverty and students with **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**.

Provide **MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY** in the use of funds to allow the development of competitive salary schedules.

Establish a new categorical program to provide supplemental programs at **DOUBLE "F" SCHOOLS**.

Study the feasibility of the State assuming property, liability and health **INSURANCE COVERAGE** for school districts.

Modify the **FEFP TRANSPORTATION FUNDING** formula to more fairly distribute funds to districts with low school bus ridership as a **RESULT OF CHOICE PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL NEEDS TRANSPORTATION**.

▪ CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING ▪

Establish a **STABLE, LONG-TERM REVENUE SOURCE FOR CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, REPLACEMENT, AND REMODELING** of educational facilities.

Delete the provision holding **MIAMI-DADE'S PECO FUNDS IN RESERVE** in the Governor's Office subject to release by the Miami-Dade Land Acquisition and Facilities Maintenance Operations Advisory Board.

EXTEND DEADLINES TO COMMIT PECO FUNDS maintained in reserve by the Miami-Dade Land Acquisition and Facilities Maintenance Operations Advisory Board.

Amend statutes to allow districts to charge the cost of **PROPERTY INSURANCE** to the 2-mill capital outlay levy.

Permit school boards, after approval of the annual capital outlay budget, to delegate to the Superintendent **THE AUTHORITY TO AWARD CONTRACTS** for specific projects within approved budget limits.

▪ LIMITED-ENGLISH-PROFICIENT EDUCATION ▪

Require the Department of Education to **PROVIDE GUIDELINES** on valid assessment instruments for Limited-English-Proficient students and **PROVIDE FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT MANDATES**.

▪ TEACHER RECRUITMENT/RETENTION ▪

Authorize full-time reemployment for teachers after one month without penalizing their **FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM BENEFITS**.

Allow school districts to expand the mandatory school year by 10 days over the next five years as well as Base Teacher Salary by increasing the **BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION** incrementally.

Amend statutes to allow retirees to participate in the **DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN AS SECOND CAREER EMPLOYEES**.

POSITION STATEMENTS: ADDITIONAL ISSUES

▪ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ▪

Increase **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**.

AMEND THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FORMULA to:

- require 85% of funding be based on enrollment projections;
- restructure performance model to reward improvement;
- set aside funds for new program development; and
- increase weights for Limited-English-Proficient students.

Eliminate the competitive grant process for **FUNDING ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**.

▪ OTHER EDUCATION ▪

Establish a universal **SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM** for all four-year-olds.

Amend **CHARTER SCHOOLS LEGISLATION** to provide that:

- school boards have final decision over granting a charter; and
- school boards have right to withhold startup, continuation and dissemination of grants.

Oppose any attempt to extend **SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX-EXEMPT STATUS** or lend the credit rating of a school district to a charter school.

Amend Florida Statutes to **ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO CHARGE RENT** for facility in conversion charter schools.

▪ PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ▪

Create a **RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM** funded by the State.

Amend statutes to allow personnel, including administrators, the option of **INVESTING EARNED SICK LEAVE** in an annuity on an annual basis.

Amend the **STATUTORY DEFINITION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**.

▪ FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ▪

Increase limit of authority for **PROFESSIONAL AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES** to \$1.5 million.

Exempt the **COST OF BUILDING A PARKING GARAGE** from the cost of a student station.

Amend statutes to allow districts to obtain a **WAIV OF PAYMENT OF WETLAND MITIGATION** fees, or discount, in connection with educational facility construction.

▪ OTHER FUNDING ▪

Oppose the imposition of **UNFUNDED STATE-MANDATED EXPENDITURES**.

Appropriate funds for **SCHOOL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**.

Modify **DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM LEGISLATION** to focus on continuous district academic improvement and to require movement to the statewide district average expenditure percentage.

Oppose deletion of **IMPACT FEES** unless replaced with another revenue source.

OPPOSE THE EARMARKING OF FUNDS for proprietary instructional programs determined by the state.

Fund **SCHOOL RECOGNITION PROGRAM** as a state categorical.

Fund secondary **PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAMS**.

Restructure **SECONDARY TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS** to include an **INCREASED FUNDED WEIGHT** and **INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION**.

Provide that **CORPORATE SCHOLARSHIPS** may pay up to \$500 for **TRANSPORTATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS** within the student's district.

▪ SAFETY ▪

Modify eligibility for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Block Grant to include school districts with **OPERATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS**.

Classify a simple **ASSAULT ON A SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEE** on the premises of an educational facility as a misdemeanor exception.

Amend Florida Statutes 281.301 restricting the distribution of correspondence, materials, plans, policies or procedures referencing **SECURITY PLANS**.

Repeal Florida Statutes 316.6145 **REQUIRING LAP BELTS ON SCHOOL BUSES**. Support proposal for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) approved passive or active restraint system.