

Frank J. Cobo, Board Member

**SUBJECT: AMEND THE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE 108<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

The Federal Legislative Program for the first year of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress includes ongoing issues from the 2002 Federal Legislative Program, as well as new issues expected to be considered during 2003. The new program needs to include responses and recommendations by the School Board Members from the Division of Career Education & Special Programs to be included in the Federal Legislation.

Based upon board action of October 24, 2001, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) approved the District Comprehensive School-To-Career Plan 2001-2005, which included the establishment of career academies in the senior high schools. In addition, this effort will support the District Strategic Goal I: School-To-Career.

Career focus academies have proven to be a highly effective public/private partnership strategy providing combined academies and career training to secondary students. They have proven to be especially effective in addressing the educational needs of at-risk students in line with the "No Child Left Behind" efforts and in increasing the graduation rate and decreasing the drop-out rate. National research has proven that school reform can be accelerated by the school-within-a-school and small learning community concepts.

The concept of career academies, if adopted in Florida, will make a positive contribution toward meeting the needs of preparing students for post-secondary choices and for a highly skilled and educated workforce in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

These funds would provide additional sources of federal and state revenue to further the implementation of this major School-To-Career model.

The recommended legislation includes establishing career academies through the following funding sources: the H1B grants, "No Child Left Behind," United States Department of Education Smaller Learning Community, and the Carl V. Perkins Vocational Education fund.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. FRANK J. COBO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorizes the Superintendent to Amend The Federal Legislative Program for the first year of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.