

Dr. Marta Perez, Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO CREATE A POSITION FOR A DISTRICT CHESS COORDINATOR**

**COMMITTEE:       BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Chess has long been recognized as a builder of strong intellect. Research on the cognitive impact of chess shows that it spurs growth in pattern recognition, memory awareness and analysis, and logical thinking. Chess instills a sense of self-confidence and self-worth and enhances a sense of comprehensible arrangement and universal order, reinforcing valuable habits of mind, such as diligent tasking, concentration, objectivity, and commitment. Schools in New York, New Jersey, and California as well in the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick have successfully included chess in their curriculum.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has historically supported the use of chess in its instructional program, kindergarten through twelfth grade. Due to the unique needs of individual schools, the decision to include chess in the instructional program has been made at the school level. Many schools offer students the opportunity to participate in chess clubs. Currently, the Academic Excellence Program (AEP) and Title I Program schools offer chess as part of their instructional program.

To increase the use of and coordinate chess-related activities throughout the District, it is requested that a feasibility study be conducted to create a position for a District chess coordinator. The chess coordinator would be responsible for assisting and expanding existing programs, promoting new opportunities, centralizing information related to this game, and, importantly, identifying grant funds for the District's chess program. In recognition of the District's budgetary limitations, this position should become effective only when funds are available, as determined through the District's budget development cycle.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTA PEREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study to create a position for a District chess coordinator and report back to the Board in May 2003.