

Ms. Evelyn Langlieb Greer, Member

SUBJECT: UNIVERSAL CONSENT FORM

COMMITTEE: SCHOOL SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY

The District's professional staff understandably complains about being overwhelmed by paperwork. The District has responded with a variety of initiatives, such as the Electronic Grade Book, that attempts to use technology to eliminate repetitive paper based tasks. This ongoing effort is a priority as expressed in the District Strategic Plan.

One way to reduce paperwork is to create an all inclusive consent form to be signed by parents or guardians at the beginning of the school year when the child is registered or when the school year begins. The Universal Consent Form would give parental consent for such things as all District approved field trips, all District approved routine medical exams like seeing and hearing tests, free lunch applications, emergency contact form, physical education testing, outside insurance, sexual predator notice, participation in extra curricular activities, Codes of Conduct, Student Responsibility Forms, media release for use of pictures or names, school directory release, etc.

Such Universal Consent Form would require parents to check each item to which they consent, so that parents could decline to consent to items to which they object.

The submission of the Universal Consent Form would be shown on the Electronic Grade book so that teachers would only have to obtain individual consent forms for field trips, etc. from students who did not have Universal Consent Forms on file. This would substantially reduce the preparing, distributing, tracking, reminding and filing of forms that is now required, especially in elementary school.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. EVELYN LANGLIEB GREER:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. Direct the Superintendent to create a Uniform Consent Form to consolidate all routine parental consents into one form that can be signed at registration or at the beginning of the year and thereby eliminate the obtaining of consent forms throughout the year; and
2. That such Universal Consent Form be available on the District and school-based website in downloadable form.