

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO CONDUCT A STUDY EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF THE DISTRICTWIDE INTEGRATION OF CHESS WITHIN THE COMPETENCY BASED CURRICULUM**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

There are a number of studies which support the contention that exposure to chess enhances memory, boosts spatial and numerical skills, increases problem-solving capabilities, and strengthens logical thinking. In 1893, Professor Binet made a study of the connection between mathematics and chess. Professor Binet commented that both chess and mathematics have a common direction and the same taste for combinations, abstraction, and precision.

More recently, a study conducted by Professor Margulies in New York investigated an effect of chess playing on reading scores. Both sets of students, those exposed to chess and those in a standard setting, had approximately equal reading scores at the start of the experiment. At the end of the year, when re-tested, students in the chess program obtained significantly higher reading scores than students in a standard setting.

Recognizing that chess brings out latent abilities that have not been reached by traditional education means, several school districts across the country are beginning to incorporate chess into the standard curriculum. The integration of chess within the competency based curriculum is worth examining as research consistently demonstrates the educational gains of having such a program.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to conduct a study examining the feasibility of the district wide integration of chess within the competency based curriculum