

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE
 COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECEIVE THE *MULTILINGUAL TASK
 FORCE 2007 REPORT***

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
 ENGAGEMENT**

LINK TO DISTRICT

**STRATEGIC PLAN: DEVELOP OUR STUDENTS SO THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO
 SUCCESSFULLY COMPETE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**

At the School Board meeting of October 11, 2006, Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Member, proffered Agenda B-7, Reconvene the Ad Hoc Multilingual Task Force. Item B-7 directed the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of implementing a foreign language requirement from kindergarten through grade 12 and to present a status report to the School Board on implementation of a new action plan.

The Ad Hoc Multilingual Task Force was charged with addressing the following issues:

- Examine the language skills being developed in bilingual/foreign language programs K-12, to determine the effectiveness of current programs;
- Review program models and implementation challenges in each model;
- Review program continuity and articulation from elementary to middle and middle to senior;
- Review the relationship among program expectations, years of participation, and language proficiency;
- Review instructional materials, personnel resources, and funding; and
- Review any other area identified by the Task Force.

The first meeting of the Multilingual Task Force was convened January 9, 2007. Dr. Joanne H. Urrutia, Administrative Director, Bilingual Education and World Languages and Mr. Frank Díaz, President, Archipelago Mortgage, served as co-chairs of the Task Force. In the development of the recommendations, the Task Force had an opportunity to visit schools, observe different delivery models of world language programs, and gather input from parents, teachers, and school site administrators.

C-21

The findings of the Multilingual Task Force support the recommendations of previous Task Forces that recognized the need to increase the language proficiency of students in languages other than English in order to provide them opportunities to be competitive in the global society of the 21st century. The Task Force recommendations also concur with the 2005-2008 District's Strategic Plan initiative of expansion of dual language programs. As such, the Task Force recommendations for Year 1 have no cost implications given that they correspond to instructional plans that were already budgeted and thus will be integrated into the District's curricular structures for language expansion. Recommendations for subsequent years will be reviewed as part of the strategic planning process and will be evaluated taking into account availability of funding, personnel, and impact on other electives and will be presented to the Board in an implementation timeline.

Recommendations for Year 1 include the following:

- Continue the District's expansion of dual language programs to ten additional schools based on individual school request and Regional Center recommendation to address feeder pattern continuum;
- Increase language choices within elementary world language programs districtwide (e.g., Haitian-Creole);
- Establish exchange opportunities in selected schools with students in other countries (e.g., internet projects, video conferencing, visits) to solidify languages being studied and to create multicultural awareness; and
- Offer course through the Parent Academy and the Bilingual Parent Outreach Programs to increase awareness regarding the importance of multilingual skills for employability and the social, cultural, and cognitive advantages of being bilingual.

A copy of the *Multilingual Task Force 2007 Report* will be transmitted to Board Members under separate cover prior to the School Board Meeting of May 16, 2007, and will be available for inspection by the public in the Citizens Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, receive the *Multilingual Task Force 2007 Report*.