

Dr. Martin Karp, School Board Member

SUBJECT: THE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND GRANTS ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO ACCESS COMPETITIVE SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: RETURN OF INVESTMENT OF GRANT DOLLARS

During the past several years, the need for supplemental educational funding has been essential to the continuation of critical services and programs. Due to the financial crisis facing the nation and the state, that need has grown. Last month, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) appropriating billions in competitive grant funds; there are more than \$5 billion of competitive grant funding available. The District must aggressively pursue these supplemental funding opportunities. In addition, the use of the funds as associated with the ARRA is going to be tied to an increased level of accountability.

Currently, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration (OIAGA) handles 195 different grant programs with a total value of over \$410 million in supplemental funding. The credit for the creation of the Grants Development unit in our District is due to the late Dr. Robert B. Ingram who in 2003 brought an item to establish a grants unit to seek supplemental funding for the District. In light of the funding now available through the ARRA, the increased levels of accountability associated with those grant funds, and the need to aggressively seek other supplemental funding sources, it is our responsibility to make sure that the OIAGA is in a strong position to be competitive in order to bring money into our schools and for Miami-Dade County Public Schools to receive their fair share of revenues. This item is about providing resources and support to schools, District employees and students. Successfully obtaining available grants could positively impact every department in the District.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to take appropriate action to ensure that the District's OIAGA will be able to aggressively pursue and compete for supplemental funding opportunities as a result of the ARRA.

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