

Mr. Renier Diaz de la Portilla, Board Member

**SUBJECT: MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PILOT-PROGRAM TO COMBAT CHILDHOOD OBESITY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE STUDENT HEALTH**

In recent years, the obesity pandemic has swept the nation affecting thousands of children. Although there have been a variety of studies conducted and programs implemented to address this issue, there is no specific prevention or treatment model for children who are overweight or those considered to be "at risk". Furthermore, overweight children and adolescents are at risk for many health problems that can lead to a variety of serious chronic health conditions. These include Type 2 Diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and sleep apnea, among others.

In a society driven to develop evidence-based medicine, Miami Children's Hospital has developed a prevention and treatment initiative that is unique. It uses research analysis, behavioral and physical therapy, clinical screening mechanisms, and ground-breaking technology to engage children who are overweight. This initiative also focuses on the prevention of obesity for children who are at risk.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MR. RENIER DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Provide a report to the Board on the feasibility and costs associated with the implementation of the MCH Initiative to Combat Childhood Obesity beginning in the 2009-2010 school year.
2. Provide copy of the report to the District's Wellness Committee for their review and input.
3. Provide said report and a recommendation to the Board at its September 9, 2009 Board Meeting.