

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUMMER READING LIST AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: ENSURE ACHIEVEMENT OF HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS BY ALL STUDENTS**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizes the importance of ensuring that students continue to strengthen reading skills and develop a passion for reading beyond the instructional requirements. Historically, schools have received on an annual basis a District recommended summer reading list which is distributed prior to summer recess. Teachers use the list and often adapt it based on the needs of students in their schools. The selection of books and designation of assignments varies from school to school.

Based on the assignments made by teachers, parents must often purchase multiple books. My office has received correspondence from parents concerned by the number of books assigned, the costs associated with the purchase of the texts, and the difficulty encountered in finding some of the selections assigned.

In an effort to ensure that children are academically engaged during the summer and to address the aforementioned concerns, it is requested that the Superintendent review current practices and guidelines for the selection of books for summer reading, create a list of recommended books, and provide suggested activities/assignments based on the readings. The cost and availability of the books selected along with the education mission of this District should be part of the selection process guidelines.

The recommendations should be easy to access for all stakeholders one month prior to the end of the school year.

The intent of this item is not to impede school instructional or administrative staff members' ability to create assignments and be limited by a District wide summer reading list. Nevertheless, the cost and availability of the books selected along with the education mission of this District should be factored in by staff. Specialty schools, unique programs, student ability levels, and teachers' judgment and areas of expertise may require deviation and/or additional recommendations.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Use education research to develop guidelines for the selection of books for the summer reading list, create a list of recommended summer reading books while recognizing school autonomy, prepare a list of suggested activities/assignments, and ensure access/distribution one month prior to school ending, and;
2. Identify a mechanism by which to distribute recommendations to instructional and administrative staff and parents, which would include an online component to access summer lists/assignments.