

Office of the School Board Members
Board Meeting of April 14, 2010

April 14, 2010

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 10-036 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
IN SUPPORT OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND
OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 6**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY**

On Friday, April 9, 2010, the Florida Legislature sent Senate Bill (SB) 6 to Governor Charlie Crist for his signature. This comprehensive education personnel initiative revises provisions relating to teacher preparation programs, teacher compensation, teacher salary schedules, and appraisal systems, and imposes a reduction of school districts' funding by 5 percent.

This legislation has not received adequate discussion and input from all stakeholders and has the potential to result in unintended consequences and unfunded mandates including:

1. Loss of local control: the Florida Constitution provides that the School Board "shall operate, control and supervise all free public schools within the school district..." and that the Legislature shall provide adequate funding for a "uniform, efficient, safe, secure and high quality system of free public schools..." The fiscal and operational impact of SB 6 on the students, teachers, and administration of local school districts is an intrusion into the day-to-day operation and diminishes local control of school districts and is therefore inconsistent with the policies and responsibilities established by the Florida Constitution;
2. Extraordinary expenditures without funding: school districts will be required to develop or acquire a valid and reliable end of course (EOC) assessment for each subject area and grade level not measured by state assessments or by examinations in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), or other national industry certification exams. This would require the development of 2,307 EOC assessments, an extremely expensive undertaking for school districts without additional funding, especially now that Florida is not a recipient of the federal funds under Race-to-the-Top;

**Good Cause
H -18**

3. Lack of reliability and validity of educational measures: many experts believe that these proposed EOC exams will serve as high-stakes instruments intended to determine both student achievement and teacher performance. It is concerning that these measures will create more government control. In order to establish and maintain consistency among school districts and to ensure that students and teachers are treated fairly from district to district, there must be uniformity in the creation of these exams, a condition not provided for by this bill; and
4. Mandated reallocation of funds: at a time of foreseeable economic uncertainty when local education budgets are stretched to their limits, this legislation effectively imposes a reduction of school districts' funding by 5 percent in order to provide performance pay through the reallocation of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funds. These funds are currently allocated to existing educational personnel and programs.

While we support teacher quality and accountability, the concerns and adverse fiscal and human resource consequences of this legislation have not been adequately addressed. Accordingly, SB 6 should be vetoed.

This item does not appear in the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the agenda because the Governor must take action on this legislation not later than Friday, April 16, 2010.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 10-036 in support of the teaching profession and in opposition to Senate Bill 6.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-036
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF
THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 6

WHEREAS, on Friday, April 9, 2010, the Florida Legislature sent Senate Bill (SB) 6 to Governor Charlie Crist for his signature. This comprehensive education personnel initiative revises provisions relating to teacher preparation programs, teacher compensation, teacher salary schedules, and appraisal systems, and imposes a reduction of school districts' funding by 5 percent; and

WHEREAS, this legislation has not received adequate discussion and input from all stakeholders and has the potential to result in unintended consequences and unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal and operational impact of SB 6, as written, on the students, teachers, and administration of local school districts is an intrusion into the day-to-day operation and diminishes local control of school districts and is therefore inconsistent with the policies and responsibilities established by the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, SB 6 would require the development of 2,307 End of Course assessments, an extremely expensive undertaking for school districts without additional funding; and

WHEREAS, at a time of foreseeable economic uncertainty when local education budgets are stretched to their limits, this legislation effectively imposes a reduction of school districts' funding by 5 percent; and

WHEREAS, while we support teacher quality and accountability, the concerns and adverse fiscal and human resource consequences of this legislation have not been adequately addressed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 10-036 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida supporting the teaching profession and opposing Senate Bill 6.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this fourteenth day of April, A.D. 2010

The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary