

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT: GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Graduation ceremonies are eagerly anticipated by soon-to-be graduates and their proud families, and are the culmination of much hard work on behalf of the students themselves as well as their teachers. The entire district rejoices as every year a new group of seniors goes through this rite of passage.

Much as we all enjoy these ceremonies, it is evident that the presence of many administrators at these events is superfluous and is actually detrimental to smooth district operations. Many important concerns come to a halt as the district virtually shuts down during the period of time that graduation exercises take place and critical decisions are delayed due to the absence of so many of our top-level administrators.

While it is important for certain individuals to be present at the ceremonies, namely the senior high school principals themselves, it is not crucial that administrators in the Office of the School Board Attorney, Office of School Facilities, Information Technology, just to name a few, be directed to attend multiple ceremonies. Not only do district operations come to an almost complete halt, but the participation of so many individuals puts a strain on the employees whose job it is to organize these events. As the district has severely reduced its central administration in an effort to reduce costs, we must be cognizant of our diminished workforce and manage our scant resources prudently and effectively.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. MARTA PÉREZ:** That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to review the practice of administrators' participation in graduation exercises and make recommendations to the School Board.