

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-021 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECOGNIZING THE 2012 FAFSA FRENZY: GETTING HELP
PAYING FOR COLLEGE CAMPAIGN FOR ITS POSITIVE IMPACT
IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognizes that in challenging financial times, making higher education affordable is more important than ever for our students and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an imperative step on the pathway to higher education. Over the years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has witnessed strong increases in the number of graduates as well as those who plan to attend college. Data has shown that 90% of the students who complete a FAFSA enroll in college. As one of 20 urban school districts from around the country to participate in United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's FAFSA Completion Project Pilot, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has organized the 2012 FAFSA Frenzy: Getting Help Paying for College campaign.

FAFSA Frenzy's goal is to prepare all students for postsecondary success and establish a culture of college attendance by utilizing the many partners and resources of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Miami-Dade County Public Schools currently offers support through College Assistance Program (CAP) advisors and school counselors who collaborate with the Education Fund, College Access Community Partnership, Catalyst Miami, College Summit, and many other groups to work with local, state, and national organizations to provide services and resources for all students.

Completing the FAFSA plays a crucial role in deciding what postsecondary institution to attend. As a result of the 2011 Legislative Session, students are now required to submit a complete, error-free FAFSA to be eligible to receive Florida Bright Futures Scholarships as well as Federal Student Aid. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has determined that it is critical that we launch a community-wide awareness campaign to help students and their families navigate the financial aid and FAFSA completion process.

This item does not appear on the published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the published agenda because it is imperative that students and parents are aware of the requirement of completing the FAFSA application in order to receive both federal financial aid and Florida Bright Futures Scholarships. January is the first month of FAFSA submission.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-021 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing the 2012 FAFSA Frenzy: Getting Help Paying for College campaign for its positive impact in our community.

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-021
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING
THE 2012 FAFSA FRENZY: GETTING HELP PAYING FOR COLLEGE
CAMPAIGN FOR ITS POSITIVE IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools recognizes that in challenging financial times, making higher education affordable is more important than ever for our students and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an imperative step on the pathway to college; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has witnessed strong increases in the number of graduates as well as those who plan to attend college. Data has shown that 90% of the students who complete a FAFSA enroll in college; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools currently offers support through College Assistance Program (CAP) advisors and school counselors who collaborate with the Education Fund, College Access Community Partnership, Catalyst Miami, College Summit, and many other groups to work with local, state, and national organizations to provide services and resources for all students; and

WHEREAS, Completing the FAFSA plays a crucial role in deciding what postsecondary institution to attend. As a result of the 2011 Legislative Session, students are now required to submit a complete, error-free FAFSA to be eligible to receive Florida Bright Futures Scholarships as well as Federal Student Aid; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has determined that it is critical that we launch a community-wide awareness campaign to help students and their families navigate the financial aid and FAFSA completion process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 12-021 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the 2012 FAFSA Frenzy: Getting Help Paying for College campaign for its positive impact in our community.

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

Presented this eighteenth day of January, A.D. 2012

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary