

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUPPORT THE STARS ACT TO ALLOW UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS WHO MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA TO ADJUST THEIR RESIDENCY STATUS IF THEY EARN A DEGREE FROM AN ACCREDITED FOUR YEAR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY

Aiming to realize the American dream of undocumented students who have lived in the United States for an extended time, Congressman David Rivera recently developed the Studying Toward Adjusted Residency Status (STARS) Act.

Specifically, the STARS Act seeks to legalize the immigration status of certain undocumented students after they have earned a degree from an accredited four year U.S. college. The students should be 18 years and six months of age or younger, have arrived in the United States before age 16, and have kept residence in the United States for at least the prior five consecutive years.

Currently, when an undocumented student who arrived in the United States as a child turns 18 years and six months of age, they begin to accrue penalty time. Penalty time could prohibit them from returning to the United States for years, despite having been accepted into a four year college in the country.

Inspired by 18-year-old North Miami Senior High School valedictorian Daniela Pelaez, who faces deportation while having lived in the United States since age four and having excelled academically, the STARS Act applies only to those students who show good moral character and have not accumulated penalty time. Those applicants who do not meet the required criteria will have their conditional non-immigrant status revoked.

As proponents of the importance of education in the K-12 system, we should support Congressman Rivera's STARS Act.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. RAQUEL REGALADO: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to support the STARS Act to allow undocumented immigrants who meet certain criteria to adjust their residency status if they earn a degree from an accredited four year higher education institution.