

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DISCUSS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI MAYOR TO PROVIDE ALL M-DCPS STUDENTS FREE AND EASY ACCESS TO INSTRUCTION ON CODING

REVISED

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

For the last few months, we have been discussing access to technology at Miami-Dade County Public Schools. However, beyond access, we also need to consider the importance of digital literacy, which is a fundamental skill for this generation. Like reading and writing, the earlier children learn about computer programming - or coding - the greater their ability to compete and succeed in the new international economy.

It is imperative that we provide Miami-Dade County Public Schools students access to the basics of coding, which will include programming languages, such as JavaScript, Ruby, and Python. Providing this training now will bridge the gap for M-DCPS students that is expected at the state and national level to handicap graduates in the next decade.

Since however, the concern with all these kinds of initiatives is cost, this board item suggests two solutions. First, for those students who are intimidated about coding, the learning experience may be simplified by engaging them in a user-friendly approach available from *Codecademy* www.codecademy.com. *Codecademy* is a free resource with innovative methods of teaching how to program that can be used by all ages. Secondly, the mayor of the City of Miami has committed to providing instructors and resources through private sectors partners that he has secured so that this program can be implemented in all City of Miami park programs and all M-DCPS elementary schools in the City of Miami.

Continuing with the district's efforts to help students excel, this board item requests that the administration meet with the mayor and his staff about the mayor's programming initiative and see about creating a pilot that can be replicated with other cities throughout Miami-Dade County. The end result of this will be providing all M-DCPS students with free and easy access to basic programming skills.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. RAQUEL REGALADO: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to discuss partnership with the Office of the City of Miami Mayor to provide all M-DCPS students free and easy access to instruction on coding.

REVISED