

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair

**SUBJECT:                    CODIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES TO  
                                  THE STATE'S ETHICS LAWS**

**COMMITTEE:                INNOVATION,        EFFICIENCY        &        GOVERNMENTAL  
                                  RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:                SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEADERSHIP**

On May 1, 2013, the Governor signed Senate Bill 2, Chapter 2013-36, Laws of Florida, which requires, among other things, that constitutional officers complete annual ethics training. School Board members and school district Superintendents are specifically covered by this new law. The law also sets forth the minimum content for such a course, and requires the Florida Commission on Ethics to adopt rules to establish the content for the ethics training.

These changes to the State's ethics laws will take effect on July 1, 2013, and mandate that beginning this year, all constitutional officers undergo four (4) hours of ethics training annually. The training must address, the "Ethics in Government" provisions in section 8, Article II of the Florida Constitution, Florida's Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees (Part III of Chapter 112 of the Florida Statutes), and the public records and public meeting laws of the State.

The Florida Commission on Ethics recently commenced rulemaking on the required course's content, which may include such topics as: doing business with one's own agency; conflicting employment or contractual relationships; misuse of position; disclosure or use of certain information; gifts and honoraria, including solicitation and acceptance of gifts, and unauthorized compensation; post-officeholding restrictions; restrictions on the employment of relatives; voting conflicts; financial disclosure requirements, including the automatic fine and appeal process; commission procedures on ethics complaints and referrals; and obtaining advisory opinions rendered by the Commission.

In order to assist the School Board and the Superintendent of Schools in complying with these new statutory requirements, it is recommended that the Superintendent amend the relevant School Board Bylaws to codify these new State ethics training requirements.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR  
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act to amend School Board Bylaw 0140, *Membership*, to annually provide for four (4) hours of ethics training for School Board members and the Superintendent as specified and required by Senate Bill 2, Chapter 2013-36, Laws of Florida.