

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:           ENDORSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MILLION DOLLAR  
COMMUNITY LITERACY CHALLENGE**

**COMMITTEE:       INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

Education is essential to the success of individuals and communities. Our public schools are charged with the responsibility of preparing children for college and career; however, education begins in the home and continues throughout one's lifetime. A parent is a child's first teacher, their first role model; and so it is immeasurably important that the adults in our community are provided with necessary supports to enable them to share a love of learning with their children from the moment they are born.

Unfortunately, there are many families among us where the adults as well as the children are struggling with educational deficits. Often this is a generational issue, resulting in opportunity gaps, leading to achievement gaps, which result in lifelong economic gaps and a variety of opportunities missed because of the lack of a solid educational foundation.

The cost to our community of this lost human opportunity is high and is paid by us all in the form of depressed economic development and host of other societal ills. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) supports and develops the highest quality educational projects, encourages innovation in services, and invests in activities that will create better outcomes for the District's children and their families.

As a public school system, M-DCPS is in a position to lead the charge to improve the lives of thousands who struggle by providing adult education and family support programs, but we cannot do it alone. Therefore, in order to assist the many community and faith-based organizations with the capacity to deliver educational and support services we will be establishing a public/private partnership focused on strengthening families and community empowerment. The Million Dollar Community Literacy Challenge will support family/adult learning in the community by leveraging private funds with a match from grant dollars and/or in-kind services to provide community-based educational and family empowerment programming.

**RECOMMENDED:**       That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida endorse the establishment of the Million Dollar Community Literacy Challenge.