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School Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CERTIFY THE 2014-2015 CLASS SIZE COMPLIANCE PLAN

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

In accordance to the Class Size Reduction Amendment to the Florida Constitution, s.1003.03, F.S., districts must comply with the Constitutional Class Size Limit at the classroom level in core courses (e.g., Math, English, Science, etc.) as follows: 18 students in prekindergarten through grade 3; 22 students in grades 4 through 8; and 25 students in grades 9 through 12. However, the passage of House Bill 7009, during the 2013 Legislative Session, amended s. 1002.31, F.S., Public School Parental Choice, which allows a school or program that is classified as a public school "choice" to limit class size to the average number of students at the school level.

In compliance with state law, compliance with fiscal year 2013-2014 class size reduction maximums were calculated at classroom level and school level, as appropriate, for the October 2013 full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment survey through November 15, 2013. Each school not in compliance must submit a plan, certified by the School Board, to the Commissioner of Education by February 1, 2014, that describes the specific actions to be taken to fully comply with class size reduction requirements by October 2014, the next school year.

Detailed below is the Class Size Compliance Plan that contains actions that will be implemented during the 2014-2015 school year for those schools not in compliance:

- Promote dual enrollment opportunities to qualified students in high schools.
- Deploy Florida Virtual School on-line courses to qualified students in secondary schools.
- Use methods to maximize use of instructional staff, such as assigning traditional non-classroom instructional staff to a classroom; scheduling of planning periods, deploying district employees with core-curricular certification to the classrooms.
- Identify under-enrolled electives and accommodate students' alternate requests prior to finalizing secondary schools' master schedules.
- Adopt alternative methods of class scheduling, such as block schedule, departmentalization and common planning.

- Consolidate core course offerings in secondary schools implementing career academies.
- Monitor class size status district-wide and provide feedback to schools, regions and district offices that identify strategies for full compliance.
- Provide district-led technical assistance to schools, on a case-by-case basis, to identify classrooms not in compliance with class size and provide possible options to adjust the master schedule to mitigate class size.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, certify the 2014-2015 Class Size Compliance Plan.

VGB:cg