Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

SUBJECT:	EDUCATING PARENTS ABOUT COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAMS/APPLICATIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
COMMITTEE:	INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:	STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In today's technology-focused world, children need to be exposed to computer science far beyond the traditional school day. And since kids today are constantly using technology in a passive manner, it is essential for them to learn at least the basics of how the devices that have an increasingly important role in modern life actually work. Worldwide, advocates of learning about computer programming are pressing for children to be taught about coding from an early age, as this knowledge will equip them for future career prospects while boosting their countries' economic competitiveness.

In September of this year, this Board unanimously approved Agenda Item H-11, which establishes a partnership between local tech groups and startups to promote participation by our teachers and students in the Hour of Code from December 8-14, 2014. Following said meeting, several parents have contacted the district and local schools seeking information on coding and how they can expose, specifically elementary school-aged children, to computer science.

Therefore, this item requests that the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) research and add information about applications and websites such as Hopscotch, Move the Turtle, Tinker, Scratch and the like to M-DCPS's website so that parents, teachers and students may readily access the same. And that M-DCPS forward information regarding these resources to our individual schools so that they may be added to the school websites which are to be assisted by M-DCPS's Public Relations/Communications Department pursuant to Agenda Item H-24 which was passed by this Board in May of 2014.

ACTION PROPOSED BY MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:	That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, through the Superintendent, research and make available to parents, teachers and students via the M-DCPS website information about available computer science programs and applications for elementary school-aged children and insure that the same is also available through the individual elementary school websites throughout the district.

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