

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ACCOMMODATIONS ON COLLEGE BOARD, ACT AND OTHER EXAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR SPECIAL NEEDS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

The College Board, American College Testing (ACT) Assessment, International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization, and Cambridge International Examinations provide reasonable testing accommodations for students with disabilities and/or special needs. Testing accommodations for these students are available for examinations, including, but not limited to, Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), the SAT Subject Tests, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), the ACT Assessment, the Advanced Placement (AP) exams, IB exams, and Cambridge exams.

Although the testing entities provide information about how to request accommodations, many parents and students with disabilities and/or special needs are not aware of the process requirements. Requests for testing accommodations require families to compile extensive medical documentation in a timely manner for review. The review of the required forms and notification of approval or denial of accommodations for these national and international exams can take several months. Additionally, timelines and procedures for submitting documentation vary with each entity.

The District currently provides schools with general information regarding deadlines and the process involved in requesting accommodations for students with disabilities and/or special needs. However, as the number of these students enrolled in advanced placement classes continues to increase, it is essential that the District strengthen its joint process as required by the testing entities for submittal of accommodation requests and its parental communication of the process requirements.

In an effort to augment the level of awareness regarding the process to request testing accommodations for students with disabilities and/or special needs for national and international standardized exams, this item seeks to direct the Superintendent to develop and implement guidelines and procedures in adherence to testing entity requirements to ensure students with disabilities and/or special needs and their families receive the information for such testing accommodations in all middle and high schools on an annual basis.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. develop streamlined guidelines and procedures that inform staff, parents, and students regarding the process to request testing accommodations for students with documented disabilities and/or special needs for national and international standardized examinations;
2. for the District to develop and implement a joint accommodation request procedure in adherence to testing entity requirements with parents of students with disabilities and/or special needs to ensure students receive accommodations for such tests in a timely manner;
3. monitor the implementation of the procedures at all middle and high schools on an annual basis.