

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION REQUESTING CERTAIN RELIEF FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2018 FLORIDA STUDENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM DUE TO THE STATEWIDE IMPACT OF HURRICANE IRMA

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

Hurricane Irma was an extremely powerful and disastrous storm, the strongest observed in the Atlantic since Dean in 2007. It was the most forceful Atlantic hurricane to strike the United States since Katrina in 2005, and the first major hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in 2005. Irma caused extensive destruction throughout the state of Florida making its first landfall on Cudjoe Key and then making its second landfall on Marco Island. Tropical storm winds and hurricane winds impacted most of the state and thousands of Floridians had to evacuate, making it the largest evacuation in the state's history. Schools and colleges were closed in 44 of the state's 67 counties. Over 4.4 million homes and businesses in Florida were without power. In Jacksonville, flooding exceeded the record set by Hurricane Dora in 1964. For the first time ever, major attractions in the state like Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, Sea World Orlando, and the Kennedy Space Center had to close. The Governor of Florida declared a state of emergency for the entire state due to the serious threat posed by Hurricane Irma to all counties.

School districts in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Monroe, Collier, Lee, Orange, Volusia, Duval, Martin, Hillsborough, Pinellas Counties, among others, were all impacted by Hurricane Irma and schools were closed for days. Missing school at the start of the academic year can exacerbate the summer slide children experience in which they forget pieces of what they learned the year before. Major storms have been known to increase children's risk of behavior disorders, physical health problems, and psychological illness. Even the changes in circumstances have been found to deteriorate children's health. Some past research finds constant moving can cause students and their families intense feelings of stress, and negative emotions.

Authorization of the Board is requested to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to communicate with the Florida Commissioner of Education requesting certain relief from the implementation of the 2018 Florida Student Assessment Program due to the statewide impact of Hurricane Irma. Some relief may include variations to the statewide assessment and reporting calendars, the reporting of school letter grades, time allotment for the administration of each test, and any other recommendations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent and his staff.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent, on behalf of the School Board, to communicate with the Florida Commissioner of Education, by October 13, 2017, requesting certain relief from the implementation of the 2018 Florida Student Assessment Program due to the statewide impact of Hurricane Irma.