

Office of the Superintendent
Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: AMEND THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA'S STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE OF DISCRETIONARY LOTTERY FUNDS TO THE SUBSTANTIAL LEVELS THAT WERE ALLOCATED TO K-12 PRIOR TO THE GREAT RECESSION

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

In FY 2001-2002, M-DCPS received \$36,951,689 in the Discretionary Lottery allocation portion of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). Over the seven fiscal years from 2001-2002 to 2007-2008, the cumulative amount received in that allocation was over \$155 million. However, between 2008-2009 and 2016-2017, that same cumulative amount plummeted 89% to \$17 million, with M-DCPS receiving zero dollars (\$0.00) over the last two fiscal years.

The Florida constitutional amendment that passed the Florida Lottery into law states that the Lottery's purpose is to provide "significant additional moneys for education", and that the intent of the Legislature is: "that the net proceeds of lottery games...be used to support improvements in public education and that such proceeds not be used as a substitute for existing resources in public education".

Despite that constitutional language, less than 0.07% of the total FEFP funds distributed to M-DCPS over the past nine years are a part of the Discretionary Lottery allocation; essentially giving local school boards no discretion over the best use of Lottery funds for their communities. In the few recent years in which M-DCPS has received a Discretionary Lottery allocation, all funds have been allocated to pay for Educational Excellence School Advisory Councils and school counselors.

It is the intent of this Administration to work with the Florida Legislature in restoring the Lottery allocation to its initial purpose of providing local school districts the capacity to invest in the supplementary educational needs of their communities. For M-DCPS, this increase in funding could go to an array of programs and initiatives, such as character education or an additional investment in school counselors to support the academic, social and emotional needs of the children we serve.

Good Cause

A-4

To that end, this item requests that the School Board modify its State Legislative Program to include the increase of Discretionary Lottery funds to the substantial levels that were allocated prior to the Great Recession.

This item does not appear in the regularly published agenda. There is good cause to vary from the published agenda because legislative committees are currently underway and it is critical that any request for funding be provided to the members of the Florida Legislature prior to their preliminary budget discussions which are eminent.

RECOMMENDED: That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida amend its State Legislative Program to include a request for an increase of discretionary lottery funds to the substantial levels that were allocated to K-12 prior to the Great Recession.