

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Chair

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 17-011 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE DIPLOMAS NOW PROGRAM AT HOMESTEAD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS, LEADERS AND STAFF

Collaborative efforts to support graduation and enhance students' overall educational experience have resulted in notable achievements at Homestead Senior High School. The fruitful collaboration between the school, John Hopkins University, City Year and Communities In Schools is achieved through the oversight of the Diplomas Now program. The program, geared at increasing graduation rates through systematic and focused data-driven intervention, enlists a multi-pronged approach with the support of the administrative team and organizations, who work cohesively. This collaboration has yielded a notable increase in graduation rates which increased from 54.2% in School Year (SY) 2010-11 to 72% in SY 2015-16.

Diplomas Now works to enable high-poverty high schools to raise student achievement and increase graduation rates through a student population who is career and college ready. The program is based on the research-based premise that half of all eventual dropouts can be identified by the end of sixth grade, and close to 75 percent by the beginning of high school. Through a fully integrated approach, Diplomas Now partners with John Hopkins University Talent Development Secondary to implement a school reform model that improves instruction and performance, City Year's "near peers" Americorps members who provide direct support to students, and Communities In Schools' trained, on-site case managers who facilitate wrap around services for students in need.

At Homestead Senior High School, Principal Guillermo Munoz, the administrative team, teachers, and staff work with Diplomas Now Coordinator Orlando Martinez-Fortun to meticulously track and record student absences, test scores, grade and behavior issues weekly. This highly focused and dynamic tracking allows for "focus lists", which allow students most at-risk to receive specialized interventions, whether through City Year mentor tutoring in the subject areas of specific need or through the Communities In Schools' coordinator who meets with students to address issues students may be having outside of school. A weekly team meeting with teachers further allows Diplomas Now to calibrate and manage interventions. In fact, even before freshmen arrive on campus, the school's administrative and Diplomas Now team review student data to ensure a proactive approach to the support offered.

This interconnected and holistic approach ensures that students receive not only the educational support they need, but also the wrap around services and the scaffolding necessary to help them overcome the obstacles that often derail plans for post-secondary learning and college and career readiness.

ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR

DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approve Resolution No. 17-011 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Diplomas Now program at Homestead Senior High School.

**Replacement
B-6**

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-011
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING THE DIPLOMAS NOW PROGRAM AT HOMESTEAD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, collaborative efforts to support graduation and enhance students' overall educational experience have resulted in notable achievements at Homestead Senior High School. The fruitful collaboration between the school, John Hopkins University, City Year and Communities In Schools is achieved through the oversight of the Diplomas Now program. The program, geared at increasing graduation rates through systematic and focused data-driven intervention, enlists a multi-pronged approach with the support of the administrative team and organizations, who work cohesively. This collaboration has yielded a notable increase in graduation rates which increased from 54.2% in School Year (SY) 2010-11 to 72% in SY 2015-16; and

WHEREAS, Diplomas Now works to enable high-poverty high schools to raise student achievement and increase graduation rates through a student population who is career and college ready. The program is based on the research-based premise that half of all eventual dropouts can be identified by the end of sixth grade, and close to 75 percent by the beginning of high school; and

WHEREAS, through a fully integrated approach, Diplomas Now partners with John Hopkins University Talent Development Secondary to implement a school reform model that improves instruction and performance, City Year's "near peers" Americorps members who provide direct support to students, and Communities In Schools' trained, on-site case managers who facilitate wrap around services for students in need; and

WHEREAS, at Homestead Senior High School, Principal Guillermo Munoz, the administrative team, teachers, and staff work with Diplomas Now Coordinator Orlando Martinez-Fortun to meticulously track and record student absences, test scores, grade and behavior issues weekly. This highly focused and dynamic tracking allows for "focus lists", which allow students most at-risk to receive specialized interventions, whether through City Year mentor tutoring in the subject areas of specific need or through the Communities In Schools' coordinator who meets with students to address issues students may be having outside of school; and

WHEREAS, this interconnected and holistic approach ensures that students receive not only the educational support they need, but also the wrap around services and the scaffolding necessary to help them overcome the obstacles that often derail plans for post-secondary learning and college and career readiness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 17-011 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the Diplomas Now program at Homestead Senior High School.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this twenty-fifth day of January, A.D. 2017

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary