

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

**SUBJECT: STUDENT BEHAVIOR: OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS
AND STUDENT SUCCESS CENTERS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL
SUPPORT**

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

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools School Board is committed to ensuring a safe learning environment for its students, staff, and stakeholders. In doing so, it adopts and implements several policies that seek to drive and govern effective, evidence-based practices for school leaders, teachers, and staff. In fact, School Board Policy 5500-*Student Conduct and Discipline* establishes guidelines, procedures, and corrective strategies to be employed in promoting and maintaining appropriate student behavior.

Prior to the commencement of the 2015-2016 school year, it was determined that the District would eliminate the practice of out-of-school suspensions through the Rethink Discipline Initiative. This bold, innovative, and well-intended approach sought to keep students in schools and off the streets by engaging them in learning rather than exposing them to an increased potential for delinquent behavior; implement corrective strategies such as counseling; address and mitigate the disproportionate number of Black and Hispanic males that were suspended; and provide a districtwide, strategic response to addressing the widely debated school-to-prison pipeline.

As a part of the Rethink Discipline initiative, Success Centers were established as one of the alternative options to eliminate the practice of out-of-school suspension. Eleven (11) Success Centers are located throughout the district. The Student Success Centers seek to “provide an educational setting and safe haven for referred students (ages 11 and older) exhibiting Level III-IV behavior and (with Region approval) habitual Level II infractions of the Code of Student Conduct.”

In an effort to clarify the implementation, utilization, and effectiveness of the Student Success Centers, as well as their alignment with School Policy 5500, specifically guidelines, procedures, and corrective strategies governing student discipline, it is the intent of this item is to be proactive in ensuring the effectiveness and alignment of Student Success Centers with respect to educational/student impact; policy and contractual alignment; stakeholder engagement; resource allocation; and improvement of implementation for the 2017-2018 school year.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

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

1. Provide an update to the Board on the implementation of Student Success Centers including measurable impact outcomes and financial and human resources allocated; and
2. Establish a Task Force comprised of principals, teachers, counselors, students, parents, and community members to provide feedback on implementation and recommendations for improvement; and
3. Ensure alignment of District practice of elimination of out-of-school suspensions to the Board Policies governing student discipline; and
4. Ensure alignment of Board Policy regarding student discipline with subsequent contracts negotiated with UTD and any related bargaining units; and
5. Present a status update at the Board Meeting of May 24, 2017.