

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)  
COLLABORATION WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS (PDS)**

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

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

School Board Policy 1243- *Professional Development Schools: Definition and Functions* provides that: "Professional development schools are shared and equal collaborations between schools, colleges and universities, school districts and professional organizations to enhance student achievement. These collaborations are intended to establish environments of shared responsibility where learning opportunities for adults and children are integrated, individual and institutional renewal are augmented, and the process of continuous improvement in teaching and learning at all levels is enhanced."

A Professional Development School (PDS) is frequently considered to be the education equivalent of a teaching clinic and contributes as the place where theory and practice come together to well prepare potential instructional personnel, support committed teachers in their daily work, and create an optimum learning environment for students to achieve. Throughout the past four decades, PDS collaborations between school districts and institutions of higher learning have been maintained for long periods of times. Although the research between measurable objectives and student learning is inconclusive, PDS agreements with committed support from the school district and higher education administration have proven to be successful in many areas.

The National Association of Professional Development Schools (NAPDS); the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), now merged since July 2013 with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) to form the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), and the National Network for Education Renewal (NNER), have traditionally supported such partnerships. Other organizations, including the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) and the American Association of Colleges and Teacher Education (AACTE), have progressively encouraged and highlighted PDS structures as examples of best practice teacher education efforts.

PK-12 pre- and in-service teacher education programs continue to evolve and face many challenges due to a number of accountability pressures defined by legislative mandates. Classroom teachers must be recognized as the school-based teacher educators and teacher candidates must be prepared in the classrooms of the very best teachers. Furthermore, continuous professional development for our teachers needs to be provided through different modalities meeting the necessities of a very diverse and mobile student population.

Throughout the years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has increasingly supported collaborations with colleges and universities. This continuous engagement has cemented the foundation for the School Board and the Superintendent to now develop a process to build on recognized collaborations and expand efforts for new ideas and practices in our most fragile schools, preferably in all nine School Board Districts.

This PDS concept should develop a framework for the growth of future teachers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, provide a venue for academic research to be conducted on best instructional practices in the district, deliver an academic setting for professional development activities in the school district, offer teacher leadership opportunities, bring additional alternative school choices to parents, and ultimately improve student achievement in our schools. This item is presented for the Board's consideration to review establishing Professional Development Schools within the District in collaboration with colleges and universities as provided by Board policy.

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 to review the concept of establishing Professional Development Schools in collaboration with colleges and universities and report back to the Board by August 9, 2017.