

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS AND IN-DISTRICT CHOICE PROGRAMS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) remains committed to providing educational excellence and equity to all students and proudly offers a menu of innovative educational schools and program models. In fact, M-DCPS has been at the forefront of in-district school choice and educational innovation for decades and has become a leader at the state and national levels in providing such in-district choice options for students and families in Miami-Dade County.

This leadership, however, demands a continuous commitment to the improvement and expansion of such programs throughout the District. Doing so will ensure that all students are provided an opportunity to not only learn and achieve at high levels, but experience and explore innovative and diverse educational pathways and models within close or reasonable proximity to their neighborhoods. In fact, Priority 3 of Pillar 1 of Vision 20/20, the *2015-2020 Miami-Dade County Public Schools Strategic Blueprint* affirms this commitment to expansion in its measurable objective which is to "increase the percentage of students exercising School Choice in under-represented zip codes by 5 percent by 2020." This item supports and further strengthens the achievement of this objective.

At its core, educational innovation is about making education better and more appealing to students, parents, and members of the community. By successfully adopting, implementing, and operating innovative and successful school models, one can determine which models, methods, and programs work and ultimately help students learn. M-DCPS is thereby advantaged in this regards because of its record of success in school and educational program innovation and implementation.

These efforts are even more critical now amidst the backdrop of increased state and national discourse about school choice and potential legislation for expanding educational choice options to non-school district entities. These realities will ultimately compel M-DCPS to compete even more for students and families who may flee to such options due to the lack of access to innovative schools and program models within the district and within close or reasonable proximity to their neighborhoods.

The demand of students and families for innovative schools and educational choice options offered by M-DCPS continues to increase and in many instances, remains unmet because of limited student stations, travel distance, and other factors that too impedes students' enrollment.

Further, as many neighborhoods throughout the county have realized a sharp decline in student enrollment, including those in the urban core as well as those on the outskirts and deep southernmost part of the county, the provision of innovative schools and educational choice models that reflect the highest demand and most limited supply should be explored.

By applying the fundamental concept of "supply and demand" and employing it as a fulcrum of future school and program development, M-DCPS can better anticipate and embrace the inevitabilities of the local educational market and plan for the allocation of innovative schools and program models in the most efficient way possible.

This exploration should include an analysis of school and program supply and demand data (based on quantitative choice application and waiting list data), high-yield career exploratory and interest pathways, neighborhood enrollment trends, school and program location and proximity, facility space and student station availability, and student/parental interest.

This item requests that an update to the Board be made regarding the outcome of these analyses and anticipated program development and/or expansion for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years, and beyond where practicable.

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

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

1. review the current allocation of innovative schools and educational program models offered by the District;
2. conduct an analysis of those innovative schools and program models to determine the "supply and demand" relationship based on quantitative choice application and waiting list data;
3. review school facility capacity and enrollment trend data to assess which schools and related neighborhoods would be best suited, based on all related data, for the allocation of an innovative school and/or educational program model;
4. consider any and all factors that may result from proposed legislation governing the expansion of school choice including but not limited to those proposing to serve underperforming schools and/or underserved communities; and
5. present findings and plans for the 2017-2018 program expansions, funding permitted, at the School Board Meeting of August 9, 2017.