

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA DESIGNATION**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Students who attend Miami-Dade County Public Schools have many opportunities to earn a high school diploma along with specific designations that recognize extraordinary academic achievements during their high school careers. Achievement of any of these designations is evidence of a student's commitment to academic excellence, personal responsibility, and maturity; all traits which may identify a student as an attractive candidate for employment, college or university acceptance, or other post-secondary opportunities.

In order to ensure that there is broad awareness of the availability and requirements to achieve any of the several diploma designations available, such as the Seal of Biliteracy or AP Capstone Diploma, every effort should be made to acquaint parents and students with the District's Diploma Pathways materials as early as middle school to ensure proper academic planning. Further, these programs should be widely promoted throughout the community as a mechanism to raise stakeholder awareness of the rigorous academic offerings provided in our public schools. Finally, for those students who have earned a specific diploma designation, the District should explore the feasibility of providing a letter of recognition to the parent or guardian of the student which would include a brief explanation of their student's achievement.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida encourage the Superintendent to:

1. acquaint parents and students with the District's Diploma Pathways materials as early as middle school to ensure proper academic planning;
2. promote to the community the availability of the various high school diploma designations as a mechanism to raise awareness of the rigorous academic offerings provided in our public schools; and
3. explore the feasibility of providing a letter of recognition to the parent or guardian of students achieving a diploma designation, including a brief explanation the achievement.