

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) STUDENT IMMIGRATION INFLUX PLAN UPDATE**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

In 1987, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) developed a plan to respond and be prepared for the possibility of a large-scale influx of foreign-born students and their families. The plan outlines specific procedures to serve students regardless of where students may be coming from and at the same time provide the educational services that they will need as they enter our schools. This plan is updated periodically or as the need arises. The last time it was revised was February 2017.

Miami continues to be home to many foreign-born students who are seeking a better way of life as they try to escape political persecution, war, drug violence, or a natural disaster. Current political insecurities, economic uncertainties, and political oppression, among others, in some of our neighboring countries pressure the need for this plan to be re-evaluated and updated now. Recent media stories and the influx of immigrant families to different county municipalities and areas such as Doral, Miami, Hialeah, Homestead, Key Biscayne, Aventura, among others, compel M-DCPS to re-evaluate current plans to be prepared in case this school district is faced with the arrival of new students and their parents seeking freedom and a better way of life. Furthermore, we need to make certain that if an influx of student immigrants occurs, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will again provide a supportive, caring, and inclusive academic program meeting the needs of newly-arrived students and their families in our democratic society. The evaluation of current school seating capacity, the probability of busing students to other schools, the possible fiscal impact to M-DCPS, transportation, and other areas of concern may necessitate the need for the School Board to review different policies and make appropriate decisions as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Therefore, this agenda item requests that the Board authorize the Superintendent to re-evaluate and update the M-DCPS Student Immigration Influx Plan, provide a copy of the plan to the Board, and review School Board policies which may be impacted by an influx of immigrant students.

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:

- 1) re-evaluate and update Miami-Dade County Public Schools Student Immigration Influx Plan and provide a copy of the plan to the Board; and
- 2) review School Board policies which may be impacted by an influx of immigrant, including those related to student seating capacity, busing, fiscal impact, transportation, and others as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and report back to the Board by October 11, 2017.