

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Chair

SUBJECT: HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

Hurricane Harvey made landfall late Friday as a Category 4 storm on the Texas Gulf Coast. Causing catastrophic and life threatening flooding and damage to southeast Texas, the powerful system pounded the region with torrential rains that are expected to continue through Friday according to the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service.

Houston Independent School District Superintendent Richard Carranza has shared that the school district is currently providing shelter and refuge for the thousands of families, including many of their employees, who are now homeless. Today he shared, "In the coming days we will be focused on ensuring that all of our families have safe refuge and are being served with food, water, and a place to lay their heads. Those places will be our schools. At the same time, we will be working on assessing our school sites and focused on getting them back online as soon as possible." He added that in the coming weeks, he may call on their brothers and sisters in the Council of Great City Schools to assist.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools leadership, professionalism and inclusiveness in response to natural disasters has been well documented and has served as a hallmark of its service throughout the years. Whether through concerted efforts in organizing drives to collect needed resources or through the deployment of leaders and specialized teams within the organization, our school district has provided much needed relief and humanitarian aid to communities throughout this nation and the world. To that end, this item authorizes the Superintendent to develop a strategic plan allowing for Miami-Dade County Public Schools to utilize resources to assist the school systems impacted by this hurricane.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY CHAIR
DR. LAWRENCE S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Public Schools authorize the Superintendent to provide assistance, as appropriate, to school districts affected by Hurricane Harvey.