

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

**SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING AND UTILIZATION OF BUSES  
DURING AFTER SCHOOL HOURS AND WEEKENDS**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has consistently served the community with foresight and innovative leadership, particularly in times of hardship and crisis. Currently, fragile communities struggle with gun violence and drug epidemics that far too often claim the lives of children who should be free to play in and explore their neighborhoods after school hours and on weekends. Sadly, this on-going crisis, identified as pervasive in identified zip codes, but certainly not limited to them, has become commonplace and all too familiar. Many of our underserved communities face challenges in seeking quality programming that offers viable and engaging learning and recreational opportunities/options for students during these after school hours. Particularly in neighborhoods with centralized parks, an opportunity exists to provide specialized programming that enhances and engages students in safe and meaningful learning experiences through the utilization of school busses as a differentiated learning environment.

Busses can be utilized as mobile classrooms that will deliver specialized services, much like M-DCPS' own MAST Academy Outreach Program and STEM Outreach Science Lab with Fairchild Gardens, which features busses outfitted with computers stations and real world technology that visit schools throughout the county. When utilized as mobile classrooms during non-school hours (not affecting normal operating routes), the possibilities are endless in terms of themes, service models, and resources that may be offered to students. One might envision a bus featuring an instructor(s) who provides assistance with tutoring and homework completion aided by Wi-Fi and computer lap-top access; another may carry musical instruments where classes and lessons can be delivered while sitting in an air-conditioned environment or could feature physical education balls, yoga mats and other equipment that the teacher may use outside the bus; yet another could provide after school hours meal service, as consistent with federal guidelines. There are many more opportunities including foreign language acquisition, test prep, etc. With forethought and creativity, busses may be prepped for highly specialized activities or high interest themes, such as science labs, drama or music clubs, TV production, school newspaper and photography development. Multiple busses could be sent to numerous sites at the same time or begin a rotational schedule at the same site, much like a centers approach to learning in the classroom. There are enough busses for mobile classrooms to ensure access and equity from Florida City to County-line road, from the bay to the urban boundary line in the west. Additionally, consideration can be given to ensuring safety through the assignment of a police officer.

This item seeks to explore the feasibility of utilizing school busses after school hours and weekends to provide mobile differentiated programming that would feature instructional personnel delivering specialized curriculum, tutoring and/or resources, while a police officer provides the operational security. The feasibility report should address all components associated with the differentiated use of busses as learning tools during after school hours and weekends at park sites or in communities and the launch of a pilot program encompassing elements outlined in or through this agenda item, but not limited to that which is imagined. The report should include estimated costs, possible external funding sources and partnership opportunities with outside agencies, such as Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation and/or The Children's Trust, individual philanthropies, granting opportunities, etc.

This Item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to conduct a feasibility study considering the utilization of school busses during after school hours and weekends to provide mobile differentiated programming that would feature instructional personnel delivering specialized curriculum, tutoring and/or resources, while a police officer provides the operational security. The report findings should be reported to the Board by February 27, 2019.