

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

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SUBJECT: REVIEW OF BLACK HISTORY CURRICULUM IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATIONS, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

Black History Month in February celebrates the contributions that African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality and deepens our understanding of our Nation's history.

Black History Month had its origins in 1915 when historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Woodson and his colleagues were instrumental in creating the first Black history organization that successfully promoted, researched, preserved, interpreted, and disseminated information about Black life, history, and culture to the global community. The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History had a profound impact on efforts to institutionalize Black history in schools. Between 1915 and 1950, Woodson and his colleagues established a foundation for K-12 Black history education. Today, many states mandate the teaching of African American history in public schools. Florida adopted its own mandate in 1994.

According to Section 1003.42(2)(h), F.S., all public schools are required to teach African American history efficiently and faithfully, using books and materials that meet the highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy, following the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods of instruction.

Furthermore, each year, all schools in the District are required to submit an African American History Information Update form to the District's Curriculum and Instruction, Social Sciences Department. The form, or action plan, outlines the school's specific efforts to support the study of African American history throughout the school year and curriculum. All schools are also required annually to select an African American history advocate and an alternate advocate to provide leadership and serve as school liaisons to the District.

The intent of this item is to request a review of all existing African American history advocates, as well as African American history curricula in Miami Dade County Public Schools, in accordance with Section 1003.42(2)(h), to include, but not be limited to, a Districtwide inventory of the materials provided at each school and the frequency and duration of Black history instruction.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:

That the School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. Compile an inventory of all African American History Information Update forms, as well as African American history advocates.
2. Compile a comprehensive inventory of all existing curricula implemented in Miami Dade County Public Schools in accordance with §1003.42(2)(h), F.S.
3. Provide an update to the Board by the April 2019 School Board Meeting.

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