

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER TO SCHOOL RATIO FORMULA

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act represented a comprehensive approach to addressing campus safety and mental health issues identified in the wake of the tragic events that took place at the Parkland school. Among the mandates of the bill, found in Florida State Statute 1006.12 *Safe-school officers at each public school*, is the requirement that each district school board and superintendent partner with law enforcement agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has worked diligently and strategically to ensure its compliance with this provision, overcoming sizable obstacles to meet this challenge and the public's expectation. Currently, every M-DCPS elementary, middle and high school campus, along with Exceptional Student Education, technical and vocational centers, is staffed with a Miami-Dade Schools Police School Resource Officer (SRO) or Miami-Dade County/municipality police officer, as established through varying memorandums of understanding with outside agencies.

Another provision of the act established the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission to investigate system failures in the school shooting and to develop recommendations for improvements. Chapter 4 of the commission's initial report focuses on the SRO. In the recommendations, under the 'SRO/Guardian ratio' Section (p. 102), the commission provides a model for SRO staffing ratios, noting "a point value would be used under this model to determine how many SROs and/or guardians should be dedicated to a particular campus." The model (p.103) lists the relevant factors to be considered, as determined by the commission, and include school population, school and campus design, school location, and staff-to-student ratio. Further, The Standards and Best Practices for School Resource Officer Programs, published in 2018 by the National Association of School Resource Officers, recommends that each school have at least one SRO on campus and that the determination of the number of SROs needed for each school be based on, but not limited to, school enrollment, number of campus buildings, campus acreage, calls for service, and number of non-sworn safety personnel in the building, among other factors.

Prior to the state's renewed focus on mental health, this Board took proactive steps to ensure the well-being of our student population by supporting Agenda Item H-4, proffered by School Board Member Susie Castillo at the June 21, 2017 School Board meeting, which directed the Superintendent to review and identify any recommendations for an improvement in student-to-counselor ratios and encouraged principals to purchase their counselor allocations. It is along this same vein and established practice as responsive leaders, that this item is presented. The time has now come to reflect upon the six months of this provision's implementation and consider increasing the SRO-to-school ratio as we look ahead to the 2019-20 school year.

The M-DCPS Police department has established itself as a leader in the field of school-based policing and is recognized as a responsive and reflective agency. Ahead of the known challenges of staffing, and as we continue to hire and partner with outside agencies to meet staffing needs, this item seeks to authorize the Superintendent, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Schools Police Chief, to review, calculate and determine the District's current certified School Resource Officer/police officer-to-school ratios as compared to those recommended ratios and relevant factors outlined in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Initial Report, industry recognized best practices and other applicable sources and, in making these determinations, identify those areas where an increase in certified School Resource Officers/police officers is needed or planned; a report to the Board would be provided no later than the July 2019 School Board meeting, with subsequent recommendations implemented at the commencement of the 2019-20 school year.

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 S. FELDMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent, in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Schools Police Chief, to:

1. review, calculate and determine the District's current certified School Resource Officer/police officer-to-school ratios as compared to those recommended ratios and relevant factors outlined in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Initial Report, industry recognized best practices and other applicable sources; in making these determinations, identify those areas where an increase in certified School Resource Officers/police officers is needed or planned; and
2. provide a report to the Board in the appropriate format, taking into consideration the sensitivity and confidentiality of certain information related to the District-wide and school-based security plans, no later than the July 2019 School Board meeting and implement subsequent recommendations at the commencement of the 2019-20 school year.