

Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, School Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair  
Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair  
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall  
Ms. Susie V. Castillo  
Dr. Steve Gallon III  
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas

**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 recommended ratios and relevant factors outlined in publications such as, but not limited to, The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Initial Report, The National Association of School Resource Officer's 2018 Standards and Best Practices report, available industry recognized best practices and sources, and applicable findings by the M-DCPS Safety and Security Task Force in making these determinations, develop a corresponding matrix and identify those areas where an increase in certified School Resource Officers/police officers is needed or planned; based on those determinations and matrix, identify and make adequate provisions to staff the most critical 10% of the identified schools, utilizing available funding and municipal/county partnerships, to commence no later than the 2019-202 school year; continue the process of identifying critical needs schools and their Certified Law Enforcement staffing, each year from 2020-21 forward, until all schools comply with the recommended ratio, as determined by the matrix; and provide a report to the School Board no later than the July 2019 School Board meeting, with a yearly status report provided thereafter.

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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 recommended ratios and relevant factors outlined in publications such as, but not limited to, The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Initial Report, The National Association of School Resource Officer's 2018 Standards and Best Practices report, available industry recognized best practices and sources, and applicable findings by the M-DCPS Safety and Security Task Force;

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2. in making these determinations, develop a corresponding matrix and identify the schools where an increase in certified SRO/police officers is warranted or planned;
3. based on those determinations and matrix, identify and make adequate provisions to staff the most critical 10% of the identified schools, utilizing available funding and municipal/county partnerships, to commence no later than the 2019-2020 school year;
4. continue the process of identifying critical needs schools and their Certified Law Enforcement staffing, each year from 2020-21 forward, until all schools comply with the recommended ratio, as determined by the matrix;
5. 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
6. provide a status report to the Board prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, on a yearly basis.

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