

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: DISTRICT COLLABORATION WITH OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS
TO CREATE AWARENESS ON THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC
CHARGE ON OUR FAMILIES**

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Under current rules of the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”), any alien who, at the time of the application for a visa, or who, in the opinion of the Attorney General at the time of the application for admission to the U.S., or adjustment of their immigrant status is likely at any time to become a “public charge” will be inadmissible. Under the “public charge” criteria, immigration officials may determine an applicant’s eligibility for entry into the U.S. or for lawful permanent residence by reviewing, among other things, the applicant’s income, employment, education, and skills. An applicant’s use of public benefit programs (e.g. SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing and Section 8 Housing, etc.) may also impact their eligibility status.

New rules defining “public charge,” published by the Department of Homeland Security go into effect October 15, 2019. Recent interpretations of the new public charge rule may restrict immigrants from continued access to certain public benefit programs. However, applicants may still have access to programs such as free and reduced lunch, CHIP and WIC without implicating the new public charge rule. Unfortunately, without appropriate counseling or relevant information, immigrant applicants may not seek these benefits that they desperately need for fear that they may lose their ability to obtain a visa, lawful permanent residence or be denied admission to the U.S.

This item is presented for the Board’s consideration to request that the Superintendent ascertain the feasibility of collaborating with outside organizations to increase awareness by our students and their families of the implications of the new rules interpreting the “public charge” provision of INA and their continued ability to lawfully obtain certain public benefits. This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney’s office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request that the Superintendent explore the feasibility of increasing awareness by our students and their families of the implications of the new rules interpreting the “public charge” provision of INA and of their continued ability to lawfully obtain certain public benefits.