

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

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SUBJECT: ACADEMIC SAFETY NET FOR STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

This agenda item seeks the consideration of a plan for the final marking period that addresses student performance during the pandemic. Public universities have offered grade relief to its students and many K-12 school districts have taken steps to ensure that existing grading practices take into consideration the disparities that school closures have created. With distance learning, it is much more difficult for schools to ensure that students have comparable access to learning tools, instruction, technology, and wrap-around services.

This action is not meant to undermine teachers' efforts to maintain or reach a high level of student engagement and participation, nor is it meant to preclude teachers from continuing to set high expectations for their students.

Some of our students are experiencing a tremendous amount of pressure as they witness family members' struggling with physical or mental health issues which may be caused by illness and/or financial pressures, and job losses during this pandemic. Student and family stress levels cannot be discounted or overlooked. Equally important, many students' working environments, and their obligations such as supervising siblings at home are not conducive to academic achievement. There are students who are overwhelmed with unfinished work for the final grading period and believe they will never be able to complete the assignments.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request that the Superintendent considers a plan for the final marking period pertaining to academic performance, which would account for student stress levels, learning environments and obligations.