

Dr. Martin Karp, School Board Member

SUBJECT: OFFERING CHOICE THROUGH VIRTUAL PLATFORMS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

With today's increasing reliance on virtual platforms, extending choice is something that can be pursued in this arena. For example, if a student wants to take an elective that is not offered at the school where he/she attends, the District could provide a mechanism where that student can enroll in the course at a different high school. If the course offers vocational/technical training skills, the student could enroll virtually at one of Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) vocational/technical oriented schools including Lindsay Hopkins where the ability exists to pivot back to a class during the next period at his/her home school.

Given our desire to provide the best for our students coupled with a significant decline in student enrollment, such measures could help reverse this enrollment trend. The District could experiment in other ways to increase student enrollment including offerings and accommodations for students from other counties, states, and countries if this will not take away space from Miami-Dade County students or result in an additional burden to taxpayers. Possibly, such efforts would provide for more employment of M-DCPS teachers.

Through choice virtual platforms, students currently receive speech therapy, and other services including social and emotional support, which is a top priority during these challenging times. M-DCPS should explore whether expansion of students' opportunities to access other school sites or district locations is warranted. A possible consideration would be the accessing by students from any school specialists in their fields (i.e. anger management, addiction behavior, special needs).

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney for legal sufficiency.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTIN KARP:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to explore:

1. utilizing virtual platforms that enable choice of classes at different schools;
2. if warranted, expanding student services that transcends site-specific enrollment restrictions and considers greater access to specialists; and
3. provide a response to the School Board no later than the School Board meeting of March 2021.