

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS’  
POLICE EXPLORER PROGRAM**

**COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION**

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

The Police Explorer Program is a volunteer program sponsored by Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (“MDSPD”). The program is designed to provide high-school age students, between the ages of fourteen to eighteen, who have attained a minimum of a 2.0 GPA, with the opportunity to learn about a career in law enforcement. Following an extensive training program, held every summer, police explorers gain insight into police work through first-hand experience, assisting police professionals in a variety of departmental and community activities. Police explorers are non-sworn, unarmed civilian volunteers with no arrest or enforcement powers. The Police Explorer Program is an integral part of the MDSPD and is operated out of the Community Outreach Unit.

The program is also offered in middle schools as Police Explorer “Clubs.” These students are usually restricted to in-school programs with presentations from professionals of various career fields. Both platforms offer guidance and instruction on topics related to time management, office etiquette, managing money, and dressing for success. The Explorer Program exists to teach important life and career skills to young people from all backgrounds through immersive career experiences. The program also provides exposure to various criminal justice careers and the ability to engage and have positive interaction with law enforcement professionals.

Currently the largest number of Police Explorers in Miami-Dade County, Florida participate within the MDSPD Police Explorer Program, which maintains posts at the following schools:

- Homestead Senior High School
- Miami Southridge Senior High School
- Felix Varela Senior High School
- Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School
- Miami Central Senior High School
- Hialeah Gardens Senior High School
- Coral Reef Senior High School
- John A. Ferguson Senior High School
- Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School
- Cutler Bay Middle School (Club)

The program has at least one police officer who serves as an advisor that is assigned to each post. The officers are responsible for the Police Explorer's weekly meetings while training the explorers on the dynamics of law enforcement. They also conduct field trips with the explorers to related or community events where students serve as volunteers, such as the Advocate Program, food distributions, and Share Your Heart. Most of explorers in this program surpass 100 community hours before graduation. Presently the program has approximately 100 explorers and it is expected this number will continue to grow each year as new posts are opened at other schools.

During the summer, the MDSPD offers a 3-week Explorer Academy where they are also exposed to law enforcement activities and a graduation ceremony is held at the end of the event. Explorers receive recognition through awards and certificates at both events.

Overall, the District's explorer program sponsored by MDCSP offers students of Miami-Dade County Public Schools professional and personal enrichment opportunities in the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences, competition and other activities. Additionally, the program promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship and patriotism.

Because of the significant educational benefits afforded to those students who participate in District's Police Explorer Program, this item is presented for the Board to consider directing the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of expanding the Police Explorer Program in order to provide further enrichment opportunities by adding the program at other high schools within the school district.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of expanding the Police Explorer Program sponsored by MDSPD to allow for further enrichment opportunities by adding the program at other high schools within the school district.