

Dr. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: 6-12 SCHOOL OPTIONS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS)

COMMITTEE: FACILITIES & CONSTRUCTION

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

For more than a decade, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has been at the national forefront of school choice by offering students and families access to over 1,000 unique programs aligned to a variety of themes, including international studies, visual and performing arts, technology, engineering, robotics, aviation, forensic sciences, and many others. Many of these programs leverage innovative school models, including schools that do not restrict students and parents to specific boundaries, virtual instruction, single-gender environments, and models embedded within business settings in the local community. The number and success of these unique programs have enabled M-DCPS to remain an attractive educational option for students and families across Miami-Dade County.

One model that has proven successful is the 6-12 school configuration, which offers students the option of exploring a specific area of interest beginning in the middle grades and seamlessly articulating into continued coursework in that program area throughout the high school grades, all within the same school. The District currently has six such 6-12 schools – Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts, iPrep Academy North, José Martí MAST 6-12 Academy, Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer, Young Men’s Preparatory Academy, and Young Women’s Preparatory Academy – three of which were created through the conversion of existing middle school facilities. The robust programs the District has been able to provide students as a result of these conversions have allowed M-DCPS to remain competitive and strategic with its school choice options.

As student enrollment in traditional M-DCPS schools continues to decline and as the District consistently loses students to charter schools at the transition to sixth grade, there exists a need for the District to explore every opportunity to enhance its innovative program offerings to meet parental demand. This agenda item seeks to direct the Superintendent of Schools to explore the academic, operational, and financial feasibility of increasing the number of 6-12 schools within M-DCPS through the potential conversion of existing school facilities.

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 of Schools to:

1. explore the academic, operational, and financial feasibility of increasing the number of 6-12 schools across M-DCPS through the potential conversion of existing school facilities; and
2. report back to the Board no later than July 20, 2022.