

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: EVALUATION, ENHANCEMENT, AND REINSTATEMENT OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS) COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROGRAM AND EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE PARENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS PROGRAM

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Pillar IV, Informed, Engaged, & Empowered Stakeholders of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) 2021-2026 Strategic Plan – *Infinite Possibilities*, delineates three priorities under this pillar and eight objectives. One of those objectives, “ensure 100% of schools provide opportunities for families to become empowered to advocate on behalf of their child’s education” is probably one of the most important objectives to be achieved under this pillar.

Exceptional school families support other parents, students, teachers, principals, and citizens in their communities with the clear objective of obtaining and maintaining positive outcomes for everyone in the school community. These families passionately represent the needs and perspectives of all parents, ensuring the welfare of the school community, improving the direction of their families, and acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to have a meaningful school voice without being a member of the staff. These outstanding families become role models for parent engagement, advocating not only on behalf of their own children and the formal education they receive, but for other families as well and for the entire school community.

Parents have the most direct and lasting impact on children’s learning and play a key role in supporting their education. When parents are involved in their children’s education, children are more engaged with their schoolwork, stay in school longer, and achieve better learning outcomes. Parents can encourage, motivate, and even influence their children to do well in school. Parental support and involvement also correlate with better behavior, social skills, and mental health and may translate into longer-term economic, personal, professional, and social benefits.

Even though the role of a parent in their children’s education evolves as children get older, it is important to remember that parents remain role models throughout their lives. Their attitudes towards education can inspire children and empower them as they go through their own educational journey and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Throughout the years, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has demonstrated a strong commitment and support for parents and for the school families we serve and continues to encourage the participation of all stakeholders. M-DCPS has had the Family of the Year Awards Program and commemoration in previous years. This celebration was one of the most outstanding events in this school district and although a new version of the program is in place, it is time to evaluate, enhance, and reinstate a comprehensive program and celebration in support of our school families and the district's strategic plan.

This agenda item seeks to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to evaluate, enhance, and explore reinstating M-DCPS's comprehensive Family of the Year Awards Program and explore the feasibility of developing the procedures, the criteria, the selection, and ultimately the celebration of Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parent of the Year Awards Program, in consultation and collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA; determine if completion of the selection and celebration of both awards are feasible by May 2023; and provide an interim report of both awards and events to the Board by October 7, 2022. Finally, it is important to determine if both of these awards should be included in a M-DCPS policy.

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

ACTION PROPOSED BY

MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. evaluate, enhance, and explore reinstating M-DCPS's comprehensive Family of the Year Awards Program;
2. explore the feasibility of developing the procedures, the criteria, the selection, and ultimately the celebration of Miami-Dade County Public Schools Parent of the Year Awards Program, in consultation and collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Council PTA/PTSA;
3. determine if completion of the selection and celebration of both awards are feasible by May 2023;
4. determine if both of these awards should be included in a Miami-Dade County Public Schools policy; and
5. provide an interim report to the School Board by October 7, 2022.