

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

SUBJECT: FALL REGIONAL COLLEGE FAIRS
COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY
LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

M-DCPS' mission is to "enable all students to achieve their full academic, personal, and civic potential."¹ As such, one of M-DCPS' largest responsibilities is not only supporting students to graduation but ensuring that students have a plan for life after high school and that they are prepared for that plan both academically and personally. As outlined in the *Post-Secondary Success Commitment* unanimously approved by the Board on August 18, 2021, these plans may range from pursuing higher levels of education (e.g. vocational or technical certificate program, associate degree, a Bachelor's degree, or an apprenticeship program) to enlisting with the armed forces. There is evidence that proves that post-secondary education leads to a higher likelihood of employment.² Employed adults are more likely to live healthier lifestyles and lower healthcare costs.³ Additionally, those who pursue a post-secondary degree are more likely to be civically engaged and be actively involved in their children's education.⁴

This Board has introduced items that seek to ensure our graduating class is aware of and ready to seize the infinite possibilities that exist upon their commencement including, but not limited to: *H-8 Informing Parents and Students of changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Process* (August 10, 2016), Dr. Lubby Navarro; *H-3 College Assistance Program* (January 16, 2019), Dr. Steve Gallon III; *H-3 Creating A Workforce For The 21st Century* (July 24, 2019), Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas; *H-8 Post Secondary Resources for Undocumented and Mixed Status Families* (December 9, 2020), Ms. Luisa Santos; *H-16 Post Secondary Success Commitment* (August 18, 2021), Ms. Luisa Santos; and most recently, *H-8 That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Join in Promoting The College Fair And Authorize The Superintendent To Encourage All Miami-Dade County Public Schools To Participate In The "2023 Miami National College Fair" On Sunday, March 5, 2023* (November 16, 2022), Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman.

In addition to the National Association for College Admission Counseling's (NACAC) Miami National College Fair in the Spring, one method by which families and students become aware of the possibilities that exist outside our classrooms is through school site college fairs during the Fall. These fairs provide our stakeholders the opportunity to meet with representatives from the armed forces and admissions officers from colleges, universities, and technical colleges from across the state and the nation. While some schools in close proximity to one another may choose to collaborate, oftentimes school staff at each senior high school is responsible for putting together college fairs for their school site. This has

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¹ M-DCPS. "Strategic Plan." 2021.

² Florida Tax Watch. "The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Education and Training Beyond High School in Florida." 2022.

³ Silver, Sharon R., Jia Li, and Brian Quay. "Employment Status, Unemployment Duration, and Health-Related Metrics Among US Adults of Prime Working Age: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2018-2019." *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*. 8 November 2021.

⁴ Ma, Jennifer, Matea Pender, and Meredith Welch. "Education Pays 2019: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society." *Trends in Higher Education Series*. College Board. 2019.

inadvertently created competition among our own schools as they vie for coveted time with college admissions officers. Additionally, many colleges and universities have reduced resources for admissions officers, which has led to fewer trips to college fairs, thereby making it more difficult to secure representation. By consolidating schools' fairs into regional fairs, we can increase the likelihood of securing the officers' participation as they are able to connect with more students in the same time period.

This board item seeks to direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of facilitating regional college fairs starting in the Fall of 2023 to promote collaboration among senior high schools' staff and create efficiencies that deliver better experiences for students and their families.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of facilitating Fall regional college fairs during the Fall of 2023 and moving forward. A report on the establishment of such a fair shall be provided to the Board no later than March 31, 2023.