

Mr. Danny Espino, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: PRIORITIZING UNITED STATES MILITARY VETERAN'S DEPENDENT CHILDREN  
DURING THE MAGNET PROGRAM RANDOM SELECTION  
PROCESS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY**

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

Magnet schools/programs provide families across our country with the educational choice of sending their children to more rigorous academic or interest-oriented programs. They allow public school districts the ability to increase enrollment and maintain a more diverse student population. In 1954, Miami-Dade County Public Schools ("M-DCPS") established Henry S. West Laboratory School as an experimental school of choice. Since then, M-DCPS has been at the forefront of the choice movement in education. In 1973, the Expressive Arts Center at Charles Drew Elementary became the first magnet program in this school district. Today, 115 magnet schools and 374 magnet programs provide educational choice for a majority of our students.

M-DCPS has established an online application process that opens every October 1st and runs through March 15th. This process allows families to select multiple magnet options and provides them with the necessary requirements for each selection. Many of the magnet offerings within our District require students to audition. This audition process is the sole basis for acceptance or denial once the basic application criteria is met. However, some magnet programs utilize a random selection process for the selection of students. Currently M-DCPS School Board policy 2370 provides priority for admission within this random selection process to the dependent children of active United States Military families (State statute). It also extends families with siblings' priority within this process (School Board Policy), and it extends priority to families with multiple birth siblings (Memorandum of Understanding).

The purpose of this item is to request that the Superintendent explore the feasibility of extending the same priority within the random selection process for magnet school/program acceptance to the dependent children of Veterans of the United States Military. This item also seeks authorization for the Superintendent to amend School Board Policy 2370 consistent with his determination on the feasibility of providing the dependent children of United States Military Veterans with priority during the magnet school/program random selection process.

In doing so, our District would extend the honor and respect it already provides to members of the United States Military to a segment of our population who we owe a tremendous amount of gratitude.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. DANNY ESPINO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to:

1. explore the feasibility of extending the priority within the random selection process for magnet school/program acceptance to the dependent children of Veterans of the United States Military; and
2. to amend, if necessary, Policy 2370, consistent with the Superintendent's determination on the feasibility of providing the dependent children of United States Military Veterans with priority during the magnet school/program random selection process.