

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

**SUBJECT: STUDENT DEVICE INVENTORY MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT**

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

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

At the School Board Meeting of October 20, 2021, the School Board unanimously approved School Board Agenda Item H-8 (Revised), *Addressing the Digital Divide through the Equitable Digital Experience Framework (The Framework)*. The Framework has four pillars:

1. **Reliable Internet Connectivity:** Students and staff must have access to fast and reliable wireless internet connection throughout the community and at school.
2. **Capable Devices and Technology:** Devices and technology must be able to handle the modern student and workforce workload.
3. **Digital Literacy:** A curriculum embedded throughout grades K- 12 that prepares students, teachers, and families to actively interact with and ultimately create digital texts, tools, and spaces to facilitate 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.
4. **Establishing Technology Career Pathways:** Accessible industry partnerships, career focused curriculum, and workplace opportunities with the tech industry in our county.
- 5.

In order to advance this framework, the item directed the Superintendent to conduct various analyses on the state of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) network, school bandwidth, and status of student devices and present all related outcomes at a Board workshop. Additionally, as a result of item H-10 from the December 14, 2022 School Board Meeting, Equitable Digital Experience Framework Update, an update was transmitted to the School Board on March 31, 2023. This update clearly shows that M-DCPS' digital landscape has continued to evolve. Staff has conducted additional detailed analysis, created a live device dashboard, procured additional technology, and made significant investments to comprehensively implement the Board's vision.

This item seeks to further address The Framework given the update transmitted to the board. The April 1, 2023 Board Member Device Dashboard shows that out of M-DCPS' total inventory of 222,662 Instructional Mobile Devices, 63,413 are in loaner groups and 78,438 are checked out to students. The difference accounts for 80,811 Instructional Mobile Devices not in use by an individual student or in a classroom set, mostly due to their obsolete status, and, in some cases, unsystematic inventory practices.

As the District begins its migration to the new Asset Management System and finishes purchasing the \$100 million of ESSER dollars that the School Board approved to purchase student devices, it is imperative that M-DCPS have updated and accurate inventories at schools. In order for this large acquisition of devices to be distributed fairly and effectively, it will be even more critical that a one-time inventory update of over 222,000 devices be

conducted. This will take significant time and attention and necessary resources will need to be allocated to this process. Such resources may include additional personnel, contracted services, new Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) asset tagging technology, etc.

In seeking to understand how a significant number of obsolete devices have remained on school inventories and how to create an efficient system moving forward, it is important to understand the systems in place related to student devices. Currently, all schools have a Designated Site Person (DSP), an unfunded role carrying no monetary compensation, that carries out the duties associated with the distribution of devices and the reconciliation of inventories. In nearly all schools, this individual has primary responsibilities that are mutually exclusive from the role of the DSP. In addition, schools also have an assigned School Based Technician (SBT). This individual reports to Information Technology Services and is responsible for providing technology support to schools. These roles should be reviewed and updated alongside consideration of a vital role that is not systematically addressed in our schools currently – Instructional Technology Liaison (ITL), instructional leaders to help teachers best leverage technology in the teaching and learning process. ITLs assist teachers by coaching and modeling how to leverage technologies (Learning Management System, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual/Augmented Reality, Instructional/Business Applications & Tools, Promethean & Logitech hardware, etc.) to enhance teaching and learning.

M-DCPS has led in ensuring that families have access to the technology they need while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. As we ensure the successful implementation of The Framework, up-to-date device inventories and a review of the roles necessary to sustain them will be vital.

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

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, reaffirm its commitment to addressing the digital divide and implementing the "Equitable Digital Experience Framework" by directing the Superintendent to:

1. Conduct a one-time audit of inventories before the start of the 2023-2024 school year to ensure accuracy of site reporting;
2. Explore the feasibility of utilizing radio frequency identification (RFID) tagging technology to expedite the inventory of devices and increase accuracy of the inventory;
3. Explore the feasibility of establishing and allocating an Instructional Technology Liaison (ITL) at schools and redefining the role of the School Based Technician (SBT) and Designated Site Personnel (DSP) to best support schools;
4. Explore the feasibility of purchasing and integrating software for the purposes of measuring return on investment on device utilization;
5. Update any policies, if necessary, to be consistent with District practices regarding these matters; and
6. Provide a Report concerning these findings to the Board at the July 12, 2023, Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee Meeting