

2022-2023 NEW INITIATIVES SHOWCASE



MAY 2023

INTRODUCTION

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is the third largest school district in the nation, serving more than 331,500 students. M-DCPS is committed to academic excellence and has been an A-rated District for three consecutive years. M-DCPS is also the largest employer in the County with more than 34,000 employees.

M-DCPS aims to be nimble and able to respond to the rapidly changing and competitive educational landscape while ensuring our organization has a long-term focus that will lead to continued success for all stakeholders. This document highlights new initiatives launched during the 2022-2023 School Year to ensure that M-DCPS is the best choice for all students, families, and employees.

The initiatives showcased are grouped into 6 areas of focus: (1) Career and College Readiness, (2) Talent Recruitment/Professional and Career Development, (3) Safety and Security, (4) Mental Health and Wellbeing, (5) Parent/Community Engagement, and (6) Sustainability.

Note: While the lead bureau is indicated for each initiative, many of the initiatives involve cross-bureau collaboration.



AREAS OF FOCUS

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CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS

Integrated Education and Training Programs Office of School Leadership and Performance

- Integrated Education and Training (IET) Programs provide accelerated entry into Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.
- Sixteen new Florida Department of Education (FDOE) approved IET programs were launched at 20 adult education sites and technical colleges.
- These programs provide comprehensive education that combines academic and technical components. They offer a diverse range of opportunities and pathways to success, empowering students to kick-start their careers and contribute to the local workforce with reduced time and cost compared to traditional education pathways.
- Proprietary software was developed for early identification of prospective IET students.



Expansion of Apprenticeship Programs Office of School Leadership and Performance

- Three new accelerated registered apprenticeship programs were submitted to FDOE for approval (1,050-hour Diesel Maintenance Technician Program, 600-hour Diesel Off-Road Tech Program, 450-hour HVAC/R Program for refrigerated containers). These programs expand existing apprenticeship programs with a focus on increasing enrollment and industry partners.
- These programs are designed for completion in approximately one year and provide nationally recognized registered apprenticeship certificates.
- The “Earn as you Learn” approach allows students to obtain financial benefits while gaining valuable skills and contributing to local workforce development.



CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS

Postsecondary Support Network Office of Academics and Transformation

- The Department of Exceptional Student Education and the Office of Postsecondary Career and Technical Education partnered to develop three Postsecondary Support Networks (PSN) at M-DCPS Technical Colleges to provide support and guidance to young adults with disabilities to obtain postsecondary education and training in various industries.
- PSNs were established at Robert Morgan, Miami Lakes, and Lindsey Hopkins Technical Colleges. Professional development was provided to select staff at these locations to support these programs.



Empower to Employ Office of Academics and Transformation

- Employment training programs for students with disabilities were launched in collaboration with the City of Coral Gables, City of Hialeah, and Boeing Distribution Services.
- The goals of these programs are to provide students with disabilities daily job training opportunities within the community and help these students gain employment upon graduation from high school and exit M-DCPS with a post-secondary plan.



CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS

College Connect Courses

Office of Academics and Transformation

- Ten additional academic Dual Enrollment courses with Miami Dade College are now available for high school students with a 2.5 unweighted GPA, regardless of their college entrance exam score. This provides flexibility beyond the statutory requirement of a 3.0 weighted GPA and college entrance exam criteria.
- More students will now benefit by taking college courses while in high school with the cost of college tuition, fees, and instructional materials waived. This will save time and money for students seeking a post-secondary degree.
- Since implementing this initiative in September 2022, M-DCPS has seen a 48% increase in enrollment in the targeted courses from 1,874 students in 2021-2022 to 2,767 students in 2022-2023 (as of February 2023 FTE). Hispanic and African American student subgroups, whose enrollment increased by 83% and 63%, respectively, experienced the highest increase.



TALENT RECRUITMENT/ PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

M-DCPS and FIU Counselor Pipeline Human Capital Management

- A pipeline was created for current eligible Student Services Support Specialists (SSSS) to obtain certification in School Counseling PreK-12.
- These employees work closely with school counselors and TRUST counselors as part of each school's Student Services Team by providing direct support to students. This program will help with SSSS employee career development and increase the scope of the services they can provide to students.
- Twenty-one Student Services Support Specialists are currently enrolled in the program at Florida International University.



Teacher Residency Program Human Capital Management

- A unique partnership was developed with Miami Dade College which provides students in the School of Education the opportunity to be hired by M-DCPS and earn an income while satisfying their required internship.
- This pathway provides employment to the students during their studies and after graduation while also providing continuity and consistency, and filling instructional delivery needs at M-DCPS school sites.
- An initial cohort of ten participants have been successfully hired and placed.



TALENT RECRUITMENT/ PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

EduCast

Office of the Superintendent

- EduCast is a new broadcasting tool designed to connect and inspire staff at all levels, district-wide. Through monthly Zoom webinars, departments can transmit, live, important information and updates in an easily accessible manner that does not require administrators to leave the building but rather allows them to stay with their teams at school sites. Webinar recordings are also made available for on-demand viewing.
- EduCast gives the Superintendent and his Cabinet the ability to connect and streamline communication district-wide.



Inspiring Interactions in Pre-K

Office of Academics and Transformation

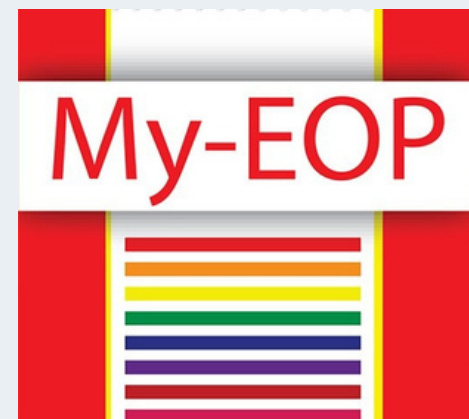
- Collaborative and engaging professional development and resources are now available that promote innovative, developmentally appropriate, and child-centered strategies to drive academic learning and social-emotional success.
- The goal is to strengthen capacity among Pre-K teachers and support staff to create nurturing, well-managed learning environments that cultivate quality adult-child interactions, prepare learners for Kindergarten, and eliminate the achievement gap.
- One hundred percent of schools with VPK programs have participated in the program.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

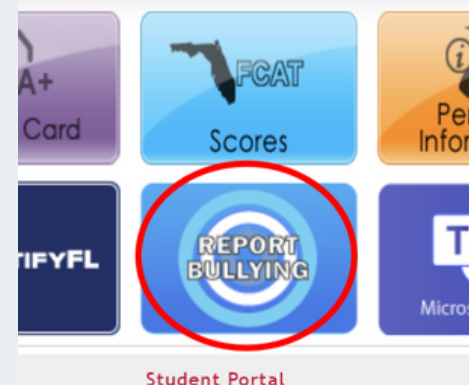
Emergency Operations Plan App Office of District Operations

- A district app has been developed to host the Emergency Operations Plan, Tropical Storm and Hurricane Plan, Student Influx Guide, Student Walkout Guide, and Crisis Messaging Guide.
- These important documents were previously located in multiple electronic locations. With the app, during an emergency, school and district leaders will be able to access this information on their phones and computers in one location instantaneously.
- The app ensures a consistent response among school and district leaders during an emergency. As all data is stored on an individual's device, a cell phone signal or WiFi access is not required. Updates will be automatically pushed out to devices as needed.



Stop a Bully. Report it Fully! Office of Academics and Transformation

- A new anonymous bullying app is now available on the student and parent portals. The app allows on-demand, electronic access to reporting instances of bullying and harassment at every grade level.
- The app assists in creating safer school environments and helps parents easily access assistance regarding bullying incidents.



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Let Me Show You The Way

Office of Academics and Transformation

- This is a student-led initiative to help support the emotional well-being of newly registered students transitioning from another state or country.
- One hundred and thirty schools are currently implementing the program. Club sponsors and student ambassadors collaborate across schools to share ideas, pictures and resources with the goals of enhancing the student experience, educating new students about the many resources available, and encouraging involvement and engagement in school activities.



Early ID is the Key

Office of Academics and Transformation

- Early ID is the Key is a universal screening pilot program used as a first step in helping to identify students in need of social, emotional, or mental health support.
- Nine schools (three elementary, three middle, and three high schools) are included in the pilot program which includes training, screener implementation and follow-up support as needed.



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Behavior Support Summit

Office of Academics and Transformation

- Over 300 attendees participated in the first ever M-DCPS Behavior Summit that took place in August 2022.
- The Summit provided both General Education and ESE Teachers with information on the development and implementation of a behavioral framework to sustain strong Tier 1 and 2 practices at their school sites.
- This professional learning experience also provided attendees valuable sessions regarding community resources to support students' social and emotional needs.
- The 2023 Behavior Summit is scheduled to take place in August 2023.
- The Summer Session was held in August 2022. The Spring Session was held in April 2023.



PARENT/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Resource Hubs

Office of Family and Community Engagement

- Two Community Resource Hubs were established to provide resources, referrals, information, and support to families.
- These hubs facilitate opportunities for community members to participate in weekly workshops that promote positive interactions and learning at home as well as access to support services for community members.



Parent Academy Re-Imagined

Office of Family and Community Engagement

- Parent Academy was re-launched to increase the accessibility and number of opportunities for families and other stakeholders to become engaged at schools in support of students.
- This initiative included the re-branding of the office, series development, updating of mobile application for on-the-go parents, and leveraging partnership opportunities.
- As of April 2023, a total of 471 in-person workshop sessions have taken place with more than 5,337 participants.



PARENT/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Alumni 305

Office of Family and Community Engagement

- Alumni serve as ambassadors not only for the school they attended but for the District overall. By establishing a coordinated alumni relations effort, the District aims to strengthen graduates' affiliation with their alma mater through partnerships and volunteerism as well as demonstrate the value of an M-DCPS education.
- An Alumni relations position was created and filled. In addition, Alumni 305 branding was developed and a website was launched along with a social media campaign to highlight alumni success stories.
- Work is currently underway to launch a quarterly newsletter and provide networking, career, and mentorship opportunities.



SUSTAINABILITY

Solar Program

Office of Facilities Design and Construction

- The purpose of this initiative is to install solar photovoltaic panel arrays on the rooftops of M-DCPS facilities with no upfront costs to the District, and to fund the installation, maintenance and operations of the system from energy savings produced by the solar panel array.
- An Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) was advertised and four vendors have been selected who are currently reviewing 35 potential pilot facilities.
- This initiative will not only facilitate cost avoidance but will also provide a physical learning demonstration to students to help them understand the potential of solar panels.



EnergyCap Management

Office of Strategic Planning & Initiatives

- EnergyCap is a utility management platform that is being utilized to reduce energy waste, empower schools with data, simplify accounting processes, and save the district money.
- The EnergyCap dashboard was developed and made available to school leadership to understand their facility's energy usage along with training on how to use the dashboard.
- This system supports the District's goal of reducing energy usage by 15% by 2026 through equipping school leaders and district administrators with data to make informed decisions on how to reduce energy consumption in District facilities.

