

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
 Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
 Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
 Ms. Monica Colucci
 Dr. Steve Gallon III

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SUBJECT: PARENT CHOICE STUDENT TRANSFER PROCESS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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

Since the creation of Henry S. West Laboratory in 1954, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has been at the forefront of the school choice movement. In 1973, M-DCPS launched its award-winning Magnet program. Since then, the program has expanded to include over 1,000 choice options across our schools. During the 2021-2022 year, 73% of M-DCPS students were enrolled in a choice program.¹

As the third largest district in the nation, it is our duty and responsibility to model excellence, agility, and user-friendly practices. As technology continues to evolve, we must be ready to integrate new, efficient systems and prepare our students to be the next generation leaders of the 22nd century.

Currently, a parent or guardian who wishes to transfer their child to another school utilizing the Parent Choice Student Transfer process must visit their child’s home school, meet with the principal, and obtain the principal’s signature on a paper form. The form is then submitted to the Region for processing. To provide a seamless and efficient process for both parents and M-DCPS administrators, it is imperative that M-DCPS provides families with the most up-to-date information, clear guidance on procedures, and user-friendly methods of communication. It is only then that parents and families will be best informed and equipped to take the necessary steps that are right for their family. School districts throughout the state and nation have transitioned their enrollment and transfer processes to digital platforms. This item seeks to update and digitize M-DCPS’ school choice transfer process.

¹ Miami Dade County Public Schools School Choice & Parental Options. Available at: <https://yourchoicemiami.org/resources/about-school-choice-parental-options/>

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:

1. Explore the feasibility of establishing a digital parent choice student transfer process that includes functions, such as but not limited to:
 - a. The secure and verifiable use of digital signatures;
 - b. Automated email and/or text messages to provide status updates to all stakeholders at every step of the transfer application process;
 - c. Automatic forwarding of a Parent Choice Student Transfer Request to the Region within a 48 hour business hour timeframe when no action is taken by the principal following a valid and complete transfer request; and
2. Explore the feasibility of amending the window during which parents are able to use this option to maximize ease for families; and
3. Provide an update to the Board by July 12, 2023; and
4. Initiate rulemaking to amend any pertinent Board policies, if deemed appropriate.