

Dr. Steve Gallon III, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Ms. Daniel Espino, Vice Chair } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco } REVISED AT DAIS BY BOARD ACTION
Ms. Monica Colucci
Ms. Luisa Santos

SUBJECT: MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN PROCUREMENT

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

Since 1985, The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has been firmly committed to policies and practices that promote and support expanded and fair access and participation by small, micro, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses. In furtherance of this principle, the School Board updated Policy 6320.02, Small/Micro, Minority/Women, and Veteran Business Enterprise Programs, in November 2012, November 2014, September 2015, March 2019, and October 2021, as a result of several formal disparity studies and Board initiatives. This policy demonstrates the Board's consistent and unwavering commitment to promoting the development, economic inclusion, and growth of local, small, micro, women, and minority businesses.

M-DCPS promotes and supports the economic development and growth of local, small, micro, minority, women and veteran owned businesses through its certification program, advisory committee, community outreach programs, contract review and monitoring activities in addition to ongoing interaction with other municipal agencies, quasi-public agencies, and the local marketplace. Further, these efforts reflect fair, open, and transparent business practices, and those that seek to eliminate perceived, artificial, or actual barriers to business engagements with M-DCPS and allow businesses in this community to flourish without the impediments or barriers of discrimination.

School Board policies and practices regarding these programs were established after completion of several disparity studies, and through a comprehensive, legally defensible process and one which serves as the guardrails of assurance and protection for the Board's local, small, micro, minority, women, and veteran owned business programs.

Recently, there has been both commentary and discussion regarding programs supporting local, small, micro, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses in M-DCPS, as well as policies and practices pertaining thereto. Although such commentary and discussion may be appropriate, absent the fulcrum of such program development, implementation, monitoring, and impact, such commentary and discussion may be uninformed, misinformed, or ill-informed. Thus, it is prudent that the School Board, as well as the public and relevant stakeholders, be provided a comprehensive review of the program, including its origin, development, intent, evolution, and measurable impact.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent, in consultation with the General Counsel, to conduct a comprehensive presentation on the initial impetus, relevant quantitative data, research-based and legal framework, program development, overview, implementation, measurable impact, current status, and any additional relevant information pertaining to the District's programs for local, small, micro, minority, and veteran owned businesses programs at a School Board Workshop to be held no later than August 30, 2023.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. STEVE GALLON III:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida directs the Superintendent, in consultation with the General Counsel, to conduct a comprehensive presentation on the initial impetus, relevant quantitative data, research-based and legal framework, program development, overview, implementation, measurable impact, current status, and any additional relevant information pertaining to the District's programs for local, small, micro, minority, women and veteran owned businesses programs at a School Board Workshop to be held no later than August 30, 2023.