

Mr. Danny Espino, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: BRIDGING MOTORSPORTS & EDUCATION: A STEAM INFUSED INITIATIVE TO ACCERLERATE READING AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

SB 240, The Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) 2.0 Act, which went into effect on July 1, 2023, underscores the significance of career education during middle and high school, mandating that students complete a course in career and education planning in grades 6, 7, or 8 to advance to high school. Moreover, the legislation empowers students who accomplish a career and technical education course or industry certification in middle school to seamlessly pursue a sequential program of career and technical education in high school, provided the program is offered within the District.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is committed to the education of all its students. With the passage of SB 240, it is imperative that the school District continue to look for ways to foster learning in a manner that is engaging and utilizes real world experiences. One way to accomplish this is to explore the exciting intersection between the worlds of high-speed motorsports, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) disciplines and career and technical education. This visionary undertaking aims to leverage the captivating allure of car racing, including but not limited to NASCAR and Formula 1, to drive student engagement and achievement, ultimately creating a transformative learning experience.

Motorsports possess the unique ability to fascinate young minds, making them an ideal conduit for fostering a love of lifelong learning. By crafting engaging materials infused with the excitement of racing, students will embark on thrilling journeys that enhance their reading skills and ignite their curiosity for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

This interdisciplinary approach also extends to career and technical education, shedding light on a myriad of career opportunities within the automotive industry. Furthermore, hands-on experiences that provide students with practical insights into mechanics, engineering, and the design behind racing vehicles would also serve to enhance our educational offerings. Collaboration with local racing teams, automotive experts, and technical institutes will facilitate immersive learning experiences, where students can apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, fostering a deep understanding of STEAM principles.

Central to this initiative can be a series of interactive lessons, dynamic classroom activities, school visits, fieldtrips, and experiential projects that merge the thrill of car racing with educational pursuits. Through these endeavors, students may not only strengthen their foundational skills but also develop critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork abilities – qualities essential for success in both school and future careers.

This item seeks to ask the Superintendent of Schools to review any current secondary and postsecondary programs the District currently has in conjunction with the Homestead-Miami Speedway, Formula 1 Racing at Hardrock Stadium, and any other motorsports organizations. Once this review is completed, that the Superintendent explore the feasibility of initiating the development of partnerships with motorsports organizations, including but not limited to NASCAR and Formula 1 Racing, to enhance the teaching of reading, STEAM subjects, and career and technical education.

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. Review any current secondary and post-secondary programs the District currently has in conjunction with the Homestead-Miami Speedway, Formula 1 Racing at Hardrock Stadium, and/or other motorsports organizations and explore the feasibility of;
2. Initiating the development of partnerships with motorsports organizations, including but not limited to NASCAR and Formula 1 Racing to enhance the teaching of reading, STEAM subjects, and career and technical learning; and
3. Report to the Board on the review of current secondary/post-secondary programs related to motorsports and partnership development at the next Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, and Technology Committee meeting scheduled for October 4, 2023.