

Ms. Mary Blanco, Board Member

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR CREATING A HIGH SCHOOL COURSE FOCUSED ON POST SECONDARY PREPAREDNESS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATIONS, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY

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

This item seeks to propose the development of a new course aimed at equipping high school students with the necessary skills and knowledge to make informed decisions regarding their post-secondary education and career paths.

As our students approach graduation, it is crucial that they are adequately prepared for the array of options available to them beyond high school. Our commitment to education cannot end at a high school diploma. As stated in our Mission, “we must provide the highest quality education so that all of our students are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.”

While some students may be considering traditional college pathways, others may be interested in pursuing career, vocational, and technical education or entering the workforce directly. Others may be undecided or unclear as to their options. It is our responsibility to provide them with the resources and guidance they need to navigate these choices effectively. After reaching our highest graduation rates, we must ensure that our students have viable plans post high school graduation.

In an effort to guide students in this process, this item seeks to direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of creating a course focused on post-secondary preparation. If feasible and appropriate, the course should include, but not be limited to, the completion of a career interest inventory followed by a research assignment and presentation of viable career options of interest. Students should also be encouraged to set viable goals and steps to attain them as they learn how to align their personal goals with potential educational and career paths. Practical skills such as resume writing, interview skills, job seeking skills, networking, and workplace professionalism are ideas to be integrated into the curriculum to prepare students for success in their chosen paths. The proposed course should also include exploring potential career pathways through guest speakers, site visits, and hands-on experiences.

Implementation of this course will not only better prepare our students for life after high school, but also empower them to make informed decisions that align with their interests, values, and goals. Ideally this course will provide an opportunity to contribute to student’s their long-term success and fulfillment.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARY BLANCO:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County authorize the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of creating and/or revamping a high school course focused on Post Secondary Preparedness, with:

1. Course elements to include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Completion of a career interest inventory,
 - b. Research and presentation of viable post-secondary option,
 - c. Clear goal setting by students for post-secondary options,
 - d. Interview skills,
 - e. Resume building skills;
2. Consideration to be given to:
 - a. Guest speakers or field visits of career options students are researching,
 - b. Paired mentoring with alumni or community partners approved by district staff in student's field of interest; and
3. A report to be given at the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, and Technology meeting of September 2024.