

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                    ENHANCING CONSTRUCTION-RELATED CAREER AND TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION COURSE OFFERINGS**

**COMMITTEE:                ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

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

The state of Florida, and in particular, Miami-Dade County is experiencing significant growth in the construction sector of our economy, leading to a heightened demand for skilled professionals. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) can help meet both the local and state demands for qualified workers, providing students with access to rewarding and well compensated career opportunities. The construction industry is a key contributor to the economy, and training students in construction management can bolster the local economic landscape by ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled workers capable of leading and supporting construction projects.

From an employment perspective, the construction industry in Miami-Dade County is robust and growing, driven by continuous urban development, infrastructure projects, and residential and commercial construction. According to recent data, the construction industry in Miami-Dade County employs a substantial number of workers, with a steady demand for construction managers. As of the latest figures, the median annual wage for construction managers is approximately \$97,180 with job growth projected to continue as the country expands and modernizes its infrastructure.

Construction management programs impart valuable skills such as project management, budgeting, planning, and leadership, which are not only critical within the construction sector but also transferable to various other industries. Promoting these programs can also enhance workforce diversity, encouraging students from diverse backgrounds to enter the field and foster a more inclusive industry. Addressing the frequent skilled labor shortages in construction, these programs can ensure a consistent supply of trained professionals.

Early exposure to construction management can help students make informed career choices and pursue relevant higher education or vocational training, positively impacting community development by contributing to the construction and maintenance of essential infrastructure. Modern construction management education also emphasizes sustainable practices and innovative technologies, promoting environmentally friendly construction methods and driving industry innovation.

M-DCPS high schools offers a variety of construction-related courses as part of their Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, designed to equip students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skill necessary for the construction industry. Key courses include Building Trades and Construction Technology, Drafting, Architectural Drafting, Electricity (Post Secondary/Dual Enrollment, Building Construction Technology, and Welding Technology. Adding a course in construction management to the District's current offerings would provide significant benefits to students by equipping them with valuable skills and opening numerous opportunities in a growing industry. Construction management courses teach essential skills such as project planning, budgeting, scheduling, and leadership which are critical for managing construction projects efficiently. These skills are highly transferable, providing students with a strong foundation for various roles within the construction industry and beyond.

Adding a construction management course to the CTE curriculum can facilitate partnerships between M-DCPS and local business, construction firms, and higher education institutions, offering students internships, mentorships, and real-world experiences, such as apprenticeships. By implementing these curricular opportunities, M-DCPS can equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the construction industry while addressing broader economic and community needs.

Incorporating a construction management course into the CTE curriculum would not only prepare students for immediate entry-level positions but also set them on a path for career advancement and higher education opportunities in construction management. This proactive approach addresses the local demand for skilled professionals, helps reduce the skilled labor shortage, and contributes positively to the local economy by creating a pipeline of well-prepared graduates ready to meet industry needs. Ultimately, this course would provide M-DCPS students with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in a lucrative and dynamic field, enhancing their career prospects and supporting the economic development of Miami-Dade County.

This item asks the Superintendent, in collaboration with the Regional Centers and school site administrators, to look at the feasibility of expanding the District's course offerings in the fields of architecture and construction, with a special emphasis on construction management. It further directs the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of establishing partnerships with local universities, (i.e., the University of Miami, Florida International University, Florida Memorial University, Miami Dade College) and local construction industry organizations to enhance professional development opportunities for teachers currently teaching these courses and to assist them when seeking certification to teach construction management, courses and report back to the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, and Technology Committee at its July 17, 2024 meeting.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
MR. DANNY ESPINO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, request that the Superintendent of Schools ...

1. in collaboration with the Regional Centers and school site administrators, to look at the feasibility of expanding the District's course offerings in the fields of architecture and construction, with a special emphasis on construction management.;

2. to facilitate partnerships with local universities and local construction industry organizations to enhance professional development opportunities for teachers currently teaching these courses and report back to the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, and Technology Committee at its July 17, 2024. meeting.