

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Ms. Mary Blanco
Dr. Steve Gallon III
Ms. Luisa Santos

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SUBJECT: COLLABORATION BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP MIAMI HOST COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

In June and July of 2026, Miami will serve as one of the official host cities for the FIFA World Cup—one of the most watched sporting events in the world. As a host city, Miami will welcome athletes, fans, and global media, presenting a unique opportunity to engage students and communities through educational, cultural, and professional experiences. In preparation for the event, Miami-Dade College has already entered into a formal partnership with FIFA to host exhibitions and provide student internship opportunities.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), as the third-largest school district in the nation, has a rich history of leveraging high-profile events to enrich student learning and provide career pathway experiences. The 2026 FIFA World Cup presents M-DCPS with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to collaborate with the Miami Host Committee to expand access to student internships, youth soccer development, arts and culture programming, and interdisciplinary academic experiences grounded in real-world global contexts.

By partnering with the Miami Host Committee and key stakeholders, M-DCPS can expand access to student internships in areas such as sports management, marketing, logistics, media production, and hospitality—fields directly tied to the operations of a global sporting event. Students could shadow professionals, participate in hands-on roles at local venues, and explore career pathways through structured programs. In parallel, youth soccer development initiatives—including district-wide tournaments and clinics led by professional coaches—would promote physical wellness, teamwork, and student engagement while reinforcing cultural pride through country-based team identities.

Beyond the field, this partnership can serve as a catalyst for arts, culture, and academic enrichment across grade levels. Schools could host “World Cup of Cultures” festivals celebrating the nations represented in the tournament through student-created art, performances, and cuisine. Interdisciplinary classroom projects could incorporate World Cup themes into geography, economics, data science, and language arts, with students analyzing game statistics, debating global issues, and simulating international negotiations. These

experiences will not only deepen academic learning but also foster global citizenship, cultural appreciation, and career readiness—ensuring M-DCPS students are prepared to lead and thrive in an interconnected world.

Such a collaboration aligns with the District's current Strategic Plan (2021–2026), which prioritizes college and career readiness, equity of access, and community engagement. By initiating discussions with the Host Committee and FIFA representatives, M-DCPS can proactively design a partnership that leaves a lasting educational and social legacy for Miami's students and families.

This item seeks to ask the Superintendent of Schools to explore a potential collaboration between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the 2026 FIFA World Cup Miami Host Committee, including but not limited to identify opportunities for student internships and workforce development programs in conjunction with the World Cup, explore youth soccer enrichment and infrastructure initiatives in partnership with community stakeholders, collaborate with FIFA on educational programming, exhibitions, and cultural events that can be hosted at District schools or facilities, develop a cross-curricular instructional framework that incorporates themes from the World Cup into existing academic content areas, and present findings and determinations to the Board at the Personnel, Student, School and Community Support Committee meeting scheduled for August 6, 2025.

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, direct the Superintendent of Schools to explore a potential collaboration where feasible, between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the 2026 FIFA World Cup Miami Host Committee, including but not limited to:

1. identifying opportunities for student internships and workforce development programs in conjunction with the World Cup;
2. exploring youth soccer enrichment and infrastructure initiatives in partnership with community stakeholders;
3. collaborating with FIFA on educational programming, exhibitions, and cultural events that can be hosted at District schools or facilities;
4. development of a cross-curricular instructional framework that incorporates themes from the World Cup into existing academic content areas; and
5. presenting a status report with preliminary findings and determinations to the Board at the Personnel, Student, School, and Community Committee Meeting on August 6, 2025.