

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

**SUBJECT: EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND HISPA**

**COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) continues to seek opportunities to expand student access to meaningful, real-world learning experiences that prepare students for success beyond the classroom. Strategic partnerships with external organizations can play a critical role in supporting student engagement, equity, and college and career readiness.

HISPA is a national nonprofit organization focused on connecting students with relatable role models, exposing them to postsecondary education, and introducing clear pathways to high-skill careers. Through structured, age-appropriate programming, HISPA brings professionals into classrooms, facilitates student visits to college campuses and corporate environments, and supports goal-setting during key academic transition years. These experiences are designed to inspire students, increase motivation, and help them better understand how education connects to future opportunities.

A central priority for M-DCPS is ensuring that students have access to mentors, exposure to higher education, and awareness of a wide range of career possibilities. At the same time, organizations such as HISPA benefit from collaboration with public school districts by expanding their impact, strengthening community relationships, and aligning their programming with local educational priorities. By exploring a partnership framework, both students and the organization may benefit—students through increased exposure and inspiration, and HISPA through deeper engagement with Miami-Dade County schools.

Potential areas of collaboration with HISPA may include, where aligned with curriculum standards and district priorities:

- **College and Career Exposure:** Classroom-based presentations, campus visits, and career exploration experiences introducing students to postsecondary options and professional pathways.
- **Student Engagement and Motivation:** Role model-led programming designed to inspire students and reinforce the relevance of education to future success.
- **Transition-Year Support:** Programming aligned to key grade levels that emphasizes goal-setting, planning, and preparation for high school and postsecondary education.
- **Community and Workforce Connections:** Opportunities to connect students with professionals and institutions that reflect the diversity of the Miami-Dade community through apprenticeships and/or mentorships.

This item asks the Superintendent to authorize the initiation of discussions with representatives of HISPA to explore the feasibility of a partnership that provides mutually beneficial opportunities for students and the District, including, but not limited to, educational programming, college and career exposure, student engagement initiatives, and related activities, where aligned with curriculum standards. The Superintendent shall report back to the Board with findings and recommendations, including potential partnership structures, at the Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee meeting on April 15, 2026.

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, requests that the Superintendent of Schools:

1. Initiate discussions with representatives of HISPA for the purpose of exploring the feasibility of a partnership that provides mutually beneficial opportunities, including but not limited to educational programming, college and career exposure, and student engagement initiatives, where aligned with curriculum standards; and; and
2. Present the feasibility findings to the School Board no later than the April 15, 2026, Fiscal Accountability and Government Relations Committee meeting.