

Mr. Danny Espino, Board Member

CO-SPONSORS: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair }
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair } A
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso } D
Mr. Joseph S. Geller } D
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SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FLORIDA’S HISTORY OF COMMUNISM STANDARDS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

The study of world history and civics provides students with critical opportunities to analyze the impact of political and economic systems on societies across time. Instruction related to the history of communism—including its theoretical foundations, global implementation, and documented human rights impacts—provides valuable context for understanding modern geopolitical dynamics, migration patterns, and the lived experiences of many families in Miami-Dade County.

In 2024, the Florida Legislature enacted requirements under state statute mandating age-appropriate instruction on the history of communism, effective for the 2026–2027 school year. This includes instruction on the origins and expansion of communist ideologies, the structures and practices of communist governments, documented atrocities, resistance movements, and comparisons with the principles of freedom and democracy foundational to the United States.

In alignment with this statutory requirement, the Florida Department of Education developed, and the State Board of Education approved, new Social Studies standards in November 2025 that include a dedicated History of Communism strand. These standards establish grade-level benchmarks in middle school and a comprehensive set of high school standards addressing topics such as the Soviet Union, East and Southeast Asia, Latin America, modern communist movements, propaganda, and the impact of communism on individual freedoms and economic systems.

The high school standards include specific references to regions and countries directly relevant to the Miami-Dade community, including Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, as well as broader global case studies. These connections present an opportunity to enhance instruction through culturally relevant, real-world contexts while maintaining academic rigor.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools serves a uniquely diverse population, including many students and families with lived experiences connected to these historical and contemporary events. As such, thoughtful implementation of these standards presents an opportunity to strengthen civic literacy, critical thinking, and student engagement through the use of primary sources, historical analysis, and community-informed perspectives.

Given the scope and depth of the newly adopted standards, as well as their scheduled implementation in the 2026–2027 school year, it is both prudent and necessary for the District to proactively prepare to ensure consistency, instructional quality, and alignment across all schools.

This item directs the Superintendent of Schools to conduct a comprehensive review of the newly adopted Social Studies standards from the Florida Department of Education related to the History of Communism strand and assess their integration into existing middle and high school courses; evaluate the District's current curriculum, pacing guides, and instructional materials to determine readiness for full implementation in the 2026–2027 school year; identify any gaps in instructional resources, including access to primary source materials, historical case studies, and developmentally appropriate content aligned to the new standards; develop recommendations for professional development to ensure that educators are prepared to deliver this content in a balanced, historically accurate, and academically rigorous manner; explore opportunities to incorporate culturally relevant connections, including community narratives and local historical context, in a manner that supports student understanding while maintaining alignment with state standards; identify current relevant partnerships and assess the feasibility of partnerships with educational institutions, museums, and reputable organizations to support instructional materials, teacher training, and student engagement opportunities; provide recommendations regarding course offerings, including any necessary adjustments to ensure equitable access for all students to the full scope of the History of Communism standards; present a report to the School Board outlining findings, implementation strategies, associated costs, and a timeline for readiness prior to the 2026–2027 school year; and report determinations and policy updates to the Board at the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee Meeting on July 15, 2026.

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. Conduct a comprehensive review of the newly adopted Social Studies standards from the Florida Department of Education related to the History of Communism strand and assess their integration into existing middle and high school courses;
2. Evaluate the District's current curriculum, pacing guides, and instructional materials to determine readiness for full implementation in the 2026–2027 school year; and
3. Identify any gaps in instructional resources, including access to primary source materials, historical case studies, and developmentally appropriate content aligned to the new standards;
4. Develop recommendations for professional development to ensure that educators are prepared to deliver this content in a balanced, historically accurate, and academically rigorous manner;
5. Explore opportunities to incorporate culturally relevant connections, including community narratives and local historical context, in a manner that supports student understanding while maintaining alignment with state standards;
6. Identify current relevant partnerships and assess the feasibility of partnerships with educational institutions, museums, and reputable organizations to support instructional materials, teacher training, and student engagement opportunities;

7. Provide recommendations regarding course offerings, including any necessary adjustments to ensure equitable access for all students to the full scope of the History of Communism standards;
8. Present a report to the School Board outlining findings, implementation strategies, associated costs, and a timeline for readiness prior to the 2026–2027 school year; and
9. Report determinations and policy updates to the Board at the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee Meeting on July 15, 2026.