

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

**CO-SPONSORS:** Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair  
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso  
Mr. Danny Espino  
Mr. Joseph S. Geller

A  
D  
D  
E  
D

**SUBJECT: POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS COMMITMENT UPDATE**

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

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

At the August 18, 2021 School Board Meeting, the School Board approved Agenda Item H-16, *Post-Secondary Success Commitment*, establishing a comprehensive framework to ensure that all M-DCPS students graduate with a relevant, viable post-secondary plan.<sup>1</sup> Based in national research informed by insight from CAP Advisors, teachers, student services personnel, and community partner organizations, the “Framework for Post-Secondary Success” outlines eight best practices:<sup>2</sup>

- 1. Baseline Data:** understand where we are to determine where we can improve and grow
- 2. Universal Standards:** implement a post-secondary planning curriculum that aligns the efforts of all stakeholders advising students in post-secondary planning
- 3. Personalization:** increase opportunities for all students to access individual advising
- 4. Best in Class CAP Advisors:** provide new CAP Advisor orientations and high-quality, ongoing professional development aligned to newly created universal standards
- 5. Centralized Leadership:** secure the centralized personnel needed to oversee and execute this framework
- 6. Ongoing Evaluation:** set annual metrics and reports to track success and best practices
- 7. Culture Shift:** cultivate and norm district and community wide expectations regarding post-secondary planning
- 8. The Tools:** leverage the power of the tech tools we currently use, such as SCOIR

Since the adoption of Item H-16, M-DCPS Student Services has implemented several components of the “Post-Secondary Success Framework,” including districtwide deployment of SCOIR, stronger coordination among advising staff, enhanced professional development, and expanded tracking of post-secondary outcomes.<sup>3</sup> Launched in Spring 2020, SCOIR serves as a shared platform for students, families, counselors, and CAP Advisors to complete post-secondary applications and document outcomes.<sup>4</sup> The district also utilizes Xello to support early college and career-readiness activities,

<sup>1</sup> Miami-Dade County Public Schools. (2021). *Agenda Item H-16: Post-Secondary Success Commitment* (Approved August 18, 2021). Retrieved from <https://www.luisasantos.com>

<sup>2</sup> Miami-Dade County Public Schools. (2021). *Agenda Item H-16: Post-Secondary Success Commitment* (Approved August 18, 2021). Retrieved from <https://www.luisasantos.com>

<sup>3</sup> SCOIR. (2023). *Case study: Miami-Dade County Public Schools: District case study on postsecondary advising and data systems*.

<sup>4</sup> Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Student Services. (2020). *District SCOIR implementation overview*.

including interest inventories, career exploration, and academic planning.<sup>5</sup> CAP Advisors from every high school receive ongoing training, and the District supports collaborative school-site college fairs to expand post-secondary access for students and families.<sup>6</sup> Collectively, these tools and practices reinforce the district’s commitment to ensuring that all students develop informed, viable post-secondary plans aligned to the “Framework for Post-Secondary Success.”

While Item H-16 did not establish a specific caseload ratio benchmark, it emphasized the need for CAP Advisors to have the “capacity to work strategically with students” and “maximize the financial aid and institutional scholarships students are offered.”<sup>7</sup> National research and urban district practice demonstrate that advising models emphasizing manageable caseloads, clear role definitions, and data-informed follow-ups are associated with stronger post-secondary outcomes when caseloads approach 250 students per advisor.<sup>8 9</sup>

The M-DCPS 2021–2026 *Strategic Plan* stresses the importance that all students graduate with a viable post-secondary plan and identifies SCOIR as the districtwide planning tool.<sup>10</sup> District program guidelines further reinforce this expectation, including requirements that students participating in dual enrollment demonstrate aligned coursework with their future plan.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, federal law under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state law under Florida Statute 1003.5716 require measurable post-secondary transition planning for students with disabilities.<sup>12 13</sup> Florida Statute 1003.491 requires coordinated post-secondary and career planning for K-12 students.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, continued focus on postsecondary outcomes and success is vital for M-DCPS’ students, families, and compliance requirements.

Subsequent items that have reaffirmed this commitment include, but are not limited to: Agenda Item H-9, as proffered by Ms. Luisa Santos, Fall Regional College Fairs, effective December 8, 2022; Agenda Item H-10, as proffered by Ms. Luisa Santos, Promoting FAFSA Completion and Updating Families on Mandated Changes to the FAFSA Application, effective May 18, 2023; Agenda Item H-10, as proffered by Mr. Danny Espino, Bridging Motorsports & Education: A Steam Infused Initiative to Accelerate Reading and Career and Technical Education, effective August 30, 2023; Agenda Item H-8, as proffered by Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Exploring the Feasibility of Implementing Department of Homeland Security Career Path (M-DCPS), effective August 30, 2023; Agenda Item H-5, as proffered by Mr. Danny Espino, Enhancing Construction-Related Career and Technical Education Course Offerings, effective June 13, 2024; Agenda Item H-2, as proffered by Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Feasibility of Developing and Implementing a Program for Miami-Dade County Public Schools Students Who May Wish to Pursue a Career as Air Traffic Controller Specialists, effective March 19, 2025; Agenda Item H-13, as proffered by Ms. Luisa Santos, Military Educational Pathways For Post-Secondary Success, effective March 13, 2025; Agenda Item B-4, as proffered by Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Recognizing Miami-Dade County Public Schools Career Technical Education (CTE) Signing Day as Students Enter Post-Secondary Technical Education, effective June 18, 2025; Agenda Item H-6, as proffered by Mr. Roberto J. Alonso, Armed Forces Signing Day, effective December 17, 2025; Agenda Item H-10, as

---

<sup>5</sup> Xello. (2024). *About Xello: College and career readiness platform*. <https://xello.world/us/>

<sup>6</sup> Miami-Dade County Public Schools. (2025). *College Fair Toolkit*.

<sup>7</sup> Santos, L. (2021). *Post-Secondary Success Commitment (H-16 Revised)*. Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

<sup>8</sup> Wake Forest University. (2025, February 6). *Access to school counselors in high school increases college enrollment*. <https://counseling.online.wfu.edu/blog/access-to-school-counselors-in-high-school-increases-college-enrollment>

<sup>9</sup> Scoir. (2023). *Miami-Dade County Public Schools: District case study on post-secondary advising and data systems*.

<sup>10</sup> Miami-Dade County Public Schools. (2021). *2021–2026 Strategic Plan*.

<sup>11</sup> Miami-Dade County Public Schools (2024). *Career Dual Enrollment Guide*. <https://www.lindseyhopkins.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Dual-Enrollment-Handbook-1.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.

<sup>13</sup> Florida Legislature. (2024). Florida Statutes § 1003.5716: Transition to postsecondary education and career opportunities.

<sup>14</sup> Florida Legislature. (2025). Florida Statutes § 1003.491: Florida Career and Professional Education Act.

proffered by Mr. Danny Espino, Enhancing Student Awareness of Military Career and Educational Pathways Through Structured Presentations, effective February 4, 2026; Agenda Item B-8, as proffered by Mr. Danny Espino, Celebrating 100 Years of High-Quality Post-Secondary Education at the University Of Miami, effective February 11, 2026.

This item seeks to reaffirm the School Board's commitment to post-secondary success for all students and update our latest understanding of progress, trends, and new challenges we are facing.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
LUISA SANTOS:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, reaffirm its commitment to Post-Secondary Success by directing the Superintendent to provide an updated presentation at the November 2026 Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, and Technology School Board committee meeting covering current and past 5-year trends on:

1. District-wide and school-site data on student post-secondary matriculation and persistence, differentiating between institution type (vocational/technical, military pathway, 2-year, 4-year, private, public, in-state, out-of-state), time to graduation, and institution/programs attended; and
2. District-wide and school-site SCOIR reports, including but not limited to application trends, enrollment trends, and other post-secondary plan outcomes, consistent with the reporting expectations outlined in Item H-16; and
3. Annual training and support for CAP Advisors, including professional development aligned to effective advising practices, data-informed decision-making, and the use of SCOIR analytics to support the post-secondary planning expectations established in H-16; and
4. The post-secondary advising curriculum, including clear standards, an annual timeline of expected student/family/CAP Advisor actions, grade-level outcomes, and how these standards have been implemented across schools; and
5. Alignment of all post-secondary planning efforts throughout M-DCPS and across community partner organizations, including coordination between early-readiness tools such as Xello and high school post-secondary planning systems such as SCOIR; and
6. Qualitative and quantitative outcomes of related district efforts, including but not limited to the National College Fair, School-Site College Fairs, Scholarship Signing and Career Decision Day, Armed Forces Signing Day, College Bootcamps, and other initiatives supporting post-secondary readiness.