

Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF FLORIDA'S SCHOOL GRADING SCALE ADJUSTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC RESPONSE FOR THE 2026–2027 SCHOOL YEAR

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

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

Section 1008.34(3)(c)1., Florida Statutes, requires the State Board of Education to annually review the percentage of schools earning grades of “A” and “B” and to adjust the school grading scale upward whenever 75 percent or more of graded schools within a school type (i.e., elementary, middle, high, or combination) reach that level. When the scale is adjusted, the statute requires the State Board to “inform the public of the degree of the adjustment and its anticipated impact on school grades.”

Based on the 2025-2026 statewide performance of 2025-2026 statewide performance, that threshold was reached. The percentage of total available school grade points necessary to earn an “A” will therefore increase for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:

School Type	2025-2026 Threshold	“A”	2026-2027 Threshold	“A”	Increase
Elementary	62%		65%		+3 pts
Middle	64%		65%		+1 pt
High	65%		70%		+5 pts
Combination	65%		70%		+5 pts
School District	65%		70%		+5 pts

These thresholds are based on the percentage of total available points earned across all applicable accountability components (achievement, learning gains, acceleration, graduation, and college and career readiness) and not on proficiency rates alone. As a result, a school can earn the same percentage of points, or even improve academically, and still receive a lower letter grade simply because the points required for that grade have risen. For example, a high school earning 67 percent of available points would have earned an “A” in 2025-2026 but will earn a “B” in 2026-2027. Year-to-year comparisons going forward should distinguish real changes in academic performance from changes caused solely by the higher thresholds.

Miami Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has consistently demonstrated strong academic performance and has maintained its status as an “A” rated school district for the past seven years. Given the implementation of the revised grading thresholds, it is important that the School Board understand their anticipated impact on M-DCPS and that the District use this information proactively to strengthen student achievement. Applying the 2026–2027 thresholds to final 2025–2026 school grade data now, rather than waiting for the 2026–2027 grades to be released, will show in advance how each school’s and the District’s grade would be affected. This allows the District to identify schools within five percentage points of a threshold, both those at risk of a lower grade and those positioned to reach a higher one, and to examine the specific accountability components driving each school’s performance so that support can be targeted where it will have the greatest impact.

The analysis should begin immediately using final 2025–2026 data as a baseline so that strategies are in place before the school year ends. As 2026–2027 student achievement and progress monitoring data become available, the District should monitor identified schools, adjust support as needed, and replicate practices from schools demonstrating strong results. Parents, employees, and the community should also receive clear information explaining that a change in a school’s letter grade may reflect the higher thresholds rather than a decline in performance.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency. This item does not appear on the published Agenda. There exists good cause to vary from the published Agenda because time is of the essence in order to properly meet established statutory timelines.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MONICA COLUCCI**

That The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to:

1. As soon as practicable, initiate an analysis of the anticipated impact of the 2026–2027 school grading thresholds established pursuant to section 1008.34(3)(c)1., Florida Statutes, using final 2025–2026 M-DCPS school grade and accountability data as the baseline;
2. Include in the analysis, at a minimum:
 - Application of the 2026–2027 grading thresholds to each M-DCPS school’s 2025–2026 percentage of total available school grade points and identification of any resulting change in letter grade;
 - Application of the 2026–2027 district grading threshold to M-DCPS’s 2025–2026 percentage of total available district grade points and the performance necessary to maintain the District’s “A” designation;
 - Identification of schools within five percentage points above or below a 2026–2027 letter grade threshold, including schools at risk of moving to a lower grade and schools positioned to advance to a higher grade; and
 - For schools identified pursuant to B(3), a component level analysis identifying the student achievement, learning gains, and other applicable school grade measures presenting the greatest opportunities for measurable academic improvement;
3. Use the analysis as a strategic planning and performance monitoring tool throughout the 2026–2027 school year by:

- Prioritizing and differentiating support for identified schools based on proximity to a threshold and the specific accountability components affecting their performance;
 - Using available student achievement, learning gains, and progress monitoring data to assess progress and make timely adjustments to strategies and supports;
 - Identifying and facilitating the replication of successful practices from M-DCPS schools demonstrating exemplary performance or significant growth in relevant accountability components; and
 - If appropriate and feasible, strategically supporting both schools at risk of moving to a lower letter grade and schools within reach of advancing to a higher grade;
4. Provide parents, employees, and the community with clear information explaining the revised 2026–2027 grading thresholds, including that the thresholds represent the percentage of total available school grade points earned across applicable accountability components, and their anticipated impact on year-to-year comparisons of school and District performance; and
 5. provide the School Board with an initial report by October 7, 2006, followed by an appropriate progress update during the 2026–2027 school year after sufficient progress monitoring data is available.