

Office of the Chief of Staff
Dr. Eric Acosta, Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: REQUEST SCHOOL BOARD APPROVAL OF ONE SCHOOL OF HOPE PERFORMANCE-BASED AGREEMENT WITH SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS – FLORIDA, INC. TO OPERATE FIVE CO-LOCATED SCHOOLS OF HOPE

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

Section 1002.333, F.S., and Rule 6A-1.0998271, F.A.C., govern the establishment and operation of Schools of Hope (“SOHs”), including the designation of qualifying nonprofit charter operators as Hope Operators, as well as requirements related to target student populations, geographic service areas, and school locations. Currently, there are six designated Hope Operators in Florida: Mater Academy, RCMA, IDEA Public Schools, Success Academy, Renaissance/Warrington Preparatory Academy, and KIPP New Jersey.

A Hope Operator may establish one or more SOHs, including multiple campuses, to serve students attending or eligible to attend a persistently low-performing school¹ (“PLP”), students residing within a Florida Opportunity Zone² (“OZ”), or students residing within a five-mile radius of a PLP attendance boundary, whichever is greater. SOHs are also required to qualify as Title I eligible schools.

State law provides more than one pathway for the authorization of Schools of Hope. In Miami-Dade County, a Hope Operator may seek authorization through Miami-Dade County Public Schools (“M-DCPS”) as the local school district or through an eligible alternate authorizer, such as Miami Dade College, a Florida College System institution. The applicable authorization process depends on the authorizer selected by the Hope Operator.

Hope Operators seeking sponsorship through a school district must submit a Notice of Intent (“NOI”) and draft Performance-based Agreement (“PBA”) to the applicable school district. The NOI identifies the Hope Operator’s proposed educational model, target student population, proposed locations, and selected authorizer, while the accompanying PBA establishes the proposed contractual terms governing the operation of the SOHs.

¹ A persistently low-performing school is defined as a school that meets at least one of the following criteria: (1) A school that has earned three grades lower than a “C,” pursuant to s. 1008.34, F.S., in at least 3 of the previous 5 years that the school received a grade and has not earned a grade of “B” or higher in the most recent 2 school years; (2) a school that was closed pursuant to s. 1008.33(4), F.S. within 2 years after the submission of a notice of intent (NOI); or (3) a school in the bottom 10 percent in at least 2 of the previous 3 years for student performance on the end-of-year administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system for grade 3 English Language Arts or grade 4 mathematics as prescribed in s. 1008.22(3)(a)2, F.S.

² A Florida Opportunity Zone means a population census tract that has been designated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a Qualified Opportunity Zone pursuant to s. 1400Z-1(b)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Legislative and regulatory changes enacted in 2025 and 2026 established provisions related to Hope Operators seeking to establish SOHs within district-owned facilities that meet statutory and regulatory eligibility criteria for co-location, including certain underutilized, vacant, or surplus facilities. These provisions include processes associated with the submission of a Building Notice, as well as the negotiation of a Mutual Management Plan (“MMP”) and Shared Facilities Plan (“SFP”). Approval of a co-location request through the Building Notice process does not constitute approval of sponsorship or authorization of an SOH. Pursuant to s. 1002.333, F.S., the sponsorship process is governed separately through the submission of an NOI and execution of a PBA.

Success Academy Charter Schools – Florida, Inc. (“SA-FL”), submitted an NOI and draft Performance-Based Agreement (“PBA”) to M-DCPS on April 27, 2026, seeking sponsorship to establish and operate five proposed co-located SOHs. The NOI and proposed PBA are accessible through the links provided on page 5 of this item. The submission includes five separate SOHs, each operating under its own MSID, and one consolidated PBA for Board approval. By submitting the proposed PBA to M-DCPS, SA-FL elected for M-DCPS to serve as the authorizer for the proposed SOHs.

Pursuant to s. 1002.333, F.S., a school district serving as the selected authorizer is required to enter into a PBA within sixty (60) days following receipt of a complete NOI. Subsequent to the submission of the NOI and proposed PBA, M-DCPS and SA-FL mutually agreed to extend the deadline for execution of the PBA beyond the initial sixty-day period.

Florida law provides that if a district does not enter into the PBA within sixty (60) days after receipt of the NOI, the district must reduce administrative fees withheld under s. 1002.33(20), F.S. to 1% for all charter schools operating in the district. Once the PBA is executed, the District may resume its normal administrative fee, but it cannot recover the fees forgone during the period of non-compliance. The statute also requires a monthly report detailing the reduction.

For M-DCPS, the estimated financial impact associated with non-compliance with the statutory timeline is approximately (\$6,274,272.27) annually, or approximately (\$522,856.02) monthly. Accordingly, Board approval is requested for the proposed consolidated PBA between M-DCPS and SA-FL for the establishment and operation of five proposed SOHs anticipated to open for the 2027-2028 school year.

NOTICE OF INTENT (“NOI”)

The NOI submitted by SA-FL outlines the proposed operational framework for the establishment and operation of five SOHs, each to co-locate within the following District-owned facilities:

- 1. Success Academy - North Miami Elementary School (88-0005)**
North Miami Senior High School
13110 NE 8th Avenue
North Miami, FL 33161
- 2. Success Academy Hialeah-Miami Lakes Elementary School (88-0012)**
Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School
7977 W 12th Avenue
Hialeah, FL 33014

3. **Success Academy Homestead Elementary School (88-0011)**
Homestead Senior High School
2351 SE 12th Avenue
Homestead, FL 33035
4. **Success Academy Miami Jackson Elementary School (88-0013)**
Miami Jackson Senior High School
1751 NW 36th Street
Miami, FL 33142
5. **Success Academy Westland Hialeah Elementary School (88-0010)**
Westland Hialeah Senior High School
4000 W 18th Avenue
Hialeah, FL 33012

At the April 22, 2026, School Board meeting, under Board Item D-64, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approved the associated MMP and SFP, thereby authorizing SA–FL to co-locate within the District-owned facilities identified above.

Success Academy Charter Schools, Inc. (Success Academy), is a New York-based nonprofit organization currently serving approximately 20,000 students across 53 schools throughout New York City, primarily serving students from predominantly low-income households. The organization opened its first school in Harlem in 2006. According to Success Academy, its educational model is centered around a holistic, inquiry-based, and collaborative instructional approach designed to foster critical thinking, creativity, and strong academic achievement. For the 2023-2024 school year, Success Academy reported that 100 percent of its graduating senior class received acceptances to four-year colleges and universities. The proposed SOHs would represent Success Academy's first schools in Florida.

For purposes of this Board item, the following terminology is used to distinguish the entities and roles within the Success Academy organizational structure:

- **State Board of Education-Approved Hope Operator:** Success Academy
- **Legal Entity (Nonprofit):** Success Academy Charter Schools – Florida, Inc.
- **Administrative/Operational Support:** Success Academy NY

An overview of the five (5) proposed SOHs is provided in Table 1 on the following page. The proposed SOHs are anticipated to open for the 2027 – 2028 school year, subject to Board approval of the PBA.

Table 1: PROPOSED SCHOOLS OF HOPE								
	School of Hope Name	Identified Persistently Low-Performing School(s)	Location	Impacted Region VD	Year 1 Grade Levels	Year 1 Projected Enrollment	Year 5 Grade Levels	Year 5 Enrollment
1	Success Academy - North Miami Elementary School (88-0005)	1. Carrie P. Meeks / Westview K-8 Center 2. Lillie C. Evans K-8 Center 3. Dr. Henry W. Mack/ West Little River K-8 Center 4. Holmes ES 5. Liberty City ES	13110 NE 8 Avenue North Miami, FL 33161	North Vacant VD 1	K-1 st	332	K – 5 th	Up to 798
2	Success Academy Hialeah-Miami Lakes Elementary School (88-0012)	1. Carrie P. Meek / Westview K-8 Center 2. Broadmoor ES	7977 West 12 Avenue Hialeah, FL 33014	North Alonso VD 4	K-1 st	332	K – 5 th	Up to 798
3	Success Academy Homestead Elementary School (88-0011)	1. Florida City ES 2. Laura C. Saunders ES 3. West Homestead K-8 Center 4. Leisure City K-8 Center 5. Irving & Beatrice Peskoe K-8 Center	2351 SE 12 Avenue Homestead, FL 33034	South Santos VD 9	K-1 st	332	K – 5 th	Up to 798
4	Success Academy Miami Jackson Elementary School (88-0013)	1. Maya Angelou ES 2. Lenora Braynon Smith ES 3. Santa Clara ES 4. Melrose ES 5. Charles R. Drew K-8 6. Lorah Park ES 7. Paul Lawrence Dunbar K-8 Center 8. Holmes ES 9. Poinciana Park ES 10. Liberty City ES 11. Phyllis Wheatley ES 12. Citrus Grove K-8 Center 13. Lillie C. Evans K-8 Center 14. Dr. Henry W. Mack/West Little River K-8 Center 15. Broadmoor ES	1751 NW 36 Street Miami, FL 33142	Central Bendross-Mindingall VD 2	K-1 st	332	K – 5 th	Up to 798
5	Success Academy Westland Hialeah Elementary School (88-0010)	1. Broadmoor ES	4000 West 18 Avenue Hialeah, FL 33012	North Alonso VD 4	K-1 st	332	K – 5 th	Up to 798
Total Projected Maximum Enrollment					1,660		Up to 3,990	

DISTRICT FISCAL IMPACT

Any significant increase in charter school student enrollment directly impacts the District's operating budget as well as instructional and non-instructional staffing levels. The proposed SOHs represent a potential increase in overall charter school enrollment and an estimated initial fiscal impact to the District for the 2027 – 2028 fiscal year.

As reflected in Table 2, the five proposed SOHs have a combined initial-year projected enrollment of 1,660 students. The estimated initial-year impact includes a General Fund impact of \$7,868,330, based on 1,245 projected charter FTE, and a staffing impact of 133 positions, consisting of 83 instructional positions (63 core and 20 non-core) and 50 non-instructional positions.

The projected loss of revenue is based on 95 percent of FEFP funds per student and 75 percent of the initial-year projected enrollment, resulting in 1,245 projected charter FTE.

Table 2: DISTRICT FISCAL IMPACT: 2027 – 2028 FISCAL YEAR						
Schools	Projected Initial-Year Enrollment	General Fund Impact		Staffing Impact		
	Students (#)	Projected Charter FTE (#)	FEFP Revenue (\$)	Instructional Positions	Non-Instructional Positions	Total Positions
(1) Success Academy - North Miami Elementary School (88-0005)	332	249	\$1,573,666	16.6	10	26.6
(2) Success Academy Hialeah-Miami Lakes Elementary School (88-0012)	332	249	\$1,573,666	16.6	10	26.6
(3) Success Academy Homestead Elementary School (88-0011)	332	249	\$1,573,666	16.6	10	26.6
(4) Success Academy Miami Jackson Elementary School (88-0013)	332	249	\$1,573,666	16.6	10	26.6
(5) Success Academy Westland Hialeah Elementary School (88-0010)	332	249	\$1,573,666	16.6	10	26.6
Estimated Total Initial Loss	1,660	1,245	\$7,868,330	83*	50	133

***Instructional Positions: 83** (63 Core and 20 Non-Core)

Core includes elementary education, language arts/reading, mathematics, science, and social science.

Non-Core includes electives and all other subject areas and programs.

DUE PROCESS

To ensure proper notice and due process, SA–FL was notified of the Superintendent’s recommendation to the School Board and was provided a copy of the proposed agreement prior to the School Board meeting.

A copy of the NOI and PBA can be accessed electronically through the links below and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

LINKS:

[Notice of Intent – Success Academy Charter Schools – Florida, Inc.](#)
[School of Hope Performance-based Agreement](#)

School Board approval of this item does not reflect or constitute a finding of need, justification, or endorsement for any charter school proposed in this item, but rather reflects Board consideration of statutory requirements associated with ss. 1002.33, 1002.331, and 1002.333, F.S., State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0998271, Florida Administrative Code, and School Board Policy 9800, Charter Schools.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

- A. Approve a School of Hope Performance-based Agreement with Success Academy Charter Schools – Florida, Inc., incorporated by reference in Table 1 to establish and operate five (5) Schools of Hope co-located within District-owned facilities, with a combined maximum enrollment of up to 3,990 students serving Kindergarten through grade 5, commencing July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2032, as follows:
 - 1. Success Academy - North Miami Elementary School (88-0005);
 - 2. Success Academy Hialeah-Miami Lakes Elementary School (88-0012);
 - 3. Success Academy Homestead Elementary School (88-0011);
 - 4. Success Academy Miami Jackson Elementary School (88-0013); and
 - 5. Success Academy Westland Hialeah Elementary School (88-0010).
- B. Approve a Reduction-in-Force/Layoff, as needed, only to the extent described in this item as Estimated Total Initial Loss, in accordance with School Board Policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements.