Miami-Dade County
Public Schools

2021-2022

August 2021

Infinite Possibilities

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE (RE)OPENING OF
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

Superintendent of Schools
Alberto M. Carvalho

August 2021

Dear Miami-Dade County Public Schools Family:

As Superintendent of Schools, I am pleased to welcome students, families and employees back to the schoolhouse for the 2021-2022 academic year. We know that children thrive with face-to-face learning, which makes this milestone even more exciting. As our community continues to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) remains committed to providing our students with a safe and nurturing educational environment crafted for their academic and personal success. M-DCPS is home to the most passionate and dedicated professionals in public education.

This year, the school district boasts more than 80 new cutting-edge programs that build on our goals of offering classroom innovation, academic rigor, innovative choice programs, mental health guidance, access, and equity. Comprehensive COVID-19 protocols are in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of our students and employees. These protocols will be reviewed weekly as conditions continue to evolve in our community and in consultation with public health and medical experts, as appropriate.

A Parent's Guide to the (Re)Opening of Miami-Dade County Public Schools was created to provide vital information for a seamless return to school. You will find helpful resources, weblinks and phone numbers in the guide.

On behalf of the School Board, I want to thank you for your tireless support of M-DCPS. I look forward to a remarkable academic year full of joy and infinite possibilities.

Sincerely,

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

AMC:dzf
L183

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Introduction

In the spring of 2020, Miami-Dade County Public Schools reacted swiftly to address the educational needs of its students as it was forced to close schools amid the spread of COVID-19. As the pandemic continued unabated, we knew we had to re-envision what K-12 education would look like during a global health crisis that showed no signs of slowing down. Last August, we reopened our school buildings and simultaneously taught in-person and virtually. It was a challenge, but in the midst of this adversity our teachers, staff, School Board, parents and community members came together to provide our students with a sense of comfort, normalcy, and routine.

Over the past year, there have been numerous changes in opinions, protocols, and medical advancements regarding COVID-19. Through the emergence of new and sometimes conflicting information and the changes in safety protocols, Miami-Dade County Public Schools held steadfast to its number one priority: the health and safety of our students and staff. With guidance from national, state, and local health organizations and our own Medical Experts Task Force, we navigated the ever-evolving health and safety protocols to revise our previous reopening guide.

In this updated document, *A Parent's Guide to the (Re)Opening of Miami-Dade County Public Schools*, you will see our continued and revised efforts, measures, and protocols to promote safe and healthy learning environments for all our students. This guide contains updated safety protocols, instructional best practices learned from this past year, and practical measures that will allow us to not only ensure the instructional integrity of our classrooms but safeguard the health and wellness of our students and staff.

As a district invested in its school community, we will continue to lead in the health and safety of students as we return to full-time, in-person teaching and learning. Over the past year and half, the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved and conditions have changed. Miami-Dade County Public Schools will continue to monitor current health conditions and continue to implement a proactive approach to current and upcoming decisions. *A Parent's Guide to the (Re)Opening of Miami-Dade County Public Schools* represents our continued focus on family-centered thinking and is intended as a resource for our community of students and their families to help them navigate this new reality as we return to a more normal school setting for the 2021-2022 school year.

How to Stay Informed

The district will continue to provide updates to parents on many topics during the school year. Information will be provided through various means such as press releases, the District's website, Student and Parent Portals, and social media. Additionally, parents are encouraged to stay in communication with their child's home school for any information going forward related to any aspect of their child's education.

Parent Portal

The portal will still be the primary place where parents will be able to access their student(s) grades and schedule. To access this, the parent's account must be linked to their student's. Parents can contact their child's school and provide proper identification to obtain their unique six-digit pin needed to link the accounts. Visit http://www.dadeschools.net/parents.asp or scan the QR code to the left.

Dadeschools Mobile App

Parents are recommended to have their student(s) linked to their account. Parents can contact their child's school and provide proper identification to obtain their unique six-digit pin needed to link the accounts. The App is available on both the App Store and Google Play.

School Site

Parents are encouraged to follow the Twitter account of their child's school and visit the school's website. School contact information can be found on the District's School Directory website or by scanning the QR code to the left. Parents should also visit the District's Eduvision channel by scanning the QR code on the right.

Social Media

Below are the social media sites and handles that the District will use to provide up-to-date information to parents and the community at large.

@MDCPS
@EscuelasMDCPS
@MiamiSUP

@MiamiSchools
@MiamiSup

@MiamiSchools
@AlbertoMCarvalho1

@MiamiSchools

2021-2022 School Calendar

Below is the 2021-2022 school calendar for elementary and secondary schools. Other district calendars (e.g., Testing Calendar, Adult/Vocational Education, Juvenile Justice Education) may be found on http://www.dadeschools.net/ or accessed using the QR codes.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

Adult/Vocational Education

Juvenile Justice Education

Testing Calendar

Master Calendar

July 2021

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

August 2021

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

September 2021

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

October 2021

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

November 2021

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

December 2021

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

January 2022

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

February 2022

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

March 2022

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

April 2022

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

May 2022

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

June 2022

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

Legend:
- New Teachers Report
- Teacher Planning Day
- Teacher Planning Day - (No Opt)
- District-wide Professional Development Day
- Recess Day
- Beg/End of Grading Period
- Legal Holiday
- o Available to opt
- a Teacher Planning Day available to opt

Days in Grading Period
- 1- 46
- 2- 44
- 3- 44
- 4- 46

For information on employee opt days, please refer to back of calendar.

What does the classroom look like?

SECTION

01

Classroom Instruction

This school year represents a return to the traditional in-person school environment with several significant changes centered around enhanced health and safety precautions. All changes were made taking into consideration the most up-to-date CDC guidelines in order to minimize the risk to the health and safety of both students and school staff. In the following sections we will be detailing the changes that you and your student can expect this school year. The CDC Guidelines include:

- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals. Consistent and correct mask use by everyone is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

Symptom Identification, Positive Case Identification, Contact Tracing, and Assessing Quarantine Measures

If a student is sick, they must stay home. Additionally, parents should check for common COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms among children include fever, headache, sore throat, cough, fatigue, nausea/vomiting, and diarrhea. If a child has a temperature over 100.4 degrees (without fever-reducing medication), the parent/caregiver should wait fifteen (15) minutes and recheck the temperature to confirm if it remains elevated. If a student is sick including presenting with a temperature above 100.4 degrees, and experiencing COVID-19 symptoms they must stay home, contact their health care provider, and the parent must notify the school immediately. Additionally, any staff members exhibiting symptoms will also be required to notify their supervisor and stay home.

In the case that a student begins to exhibit COVID-19 like symptoms during school hours, every school will have a designated Health Screening Area so that they are not interacting with other students. A staff member will be assigned to stay with the student and monitor the student's symptoms. The parent or guardian will be notified and asked to pick the student up as soon as possible. The Health Screening Area will also be sanitized immediately after each use.

In the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, or other specified communicable disease, the school site will initiate a contact investigation to determine who may have been exposed to this student or staff member. These types of cases will be reported to the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. Any school-wide or classroom closures will be determined in collaboration with the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. The District will also follow guidance from the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County for any school-wide or community notification that is deemed necessary.

If a school closure is necessary, cleaning and sanitization protocols will be implemented. Schools and classrooms will reopen after the risk of exposure has been fully evaluated. While schools or classrooms are closed, students will participate remote learning.

Face Coverings and Hygiene Procedures

As per the most updated CDC guidelines, M-DCPS will be investing in face coverings and establishing new and enhanced hygiene procedures.

- Face coverings are required for students, employees, parents, volunteers, and visitors while on school property and on school buses. Face coverings may be removed while outdoors as long as appropriate distance is maintained.
- Protective barriers will be installed at security stations and in the front office.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available in high traffic areas and on the school bus.
- If a student leaves class during a class period, they will be expected to wash their hands prior to returning to the classroom.
- Water fountains will be turned off and water bottle filling stations may be available.
- Signage will be displayed prominently around campus as reminders of the new procedures.

Face Coverings

If you are not fully vaccinated and aged 2 or older, you should wear a mask in indoor public places. In general, you do not need to wear a mask in outdoor settings.
In areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated. People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated. They should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask, until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
If you are fully vaccinated, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.

Wearing your mask and face coverings correctly is very important:
- Wash your hands before putting on your mask
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Wear a mask of an appropriate size that covers your nose and mouth
- Wearing a mask correctly to minimizes COVID-19 risks
- **Don't** put the mask around your neck or up on your forehead
- **Don't** touch the mask, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect your hands

- **Different Types of Face Coverings**
  While some types of masks are more effective than others, public-health officials say any face covering—even a bandanna—is better than nothing. Common masks or face coverings fall into four categories: 1) cloth masks or coverings like gaiters, intended to prevent an infected person from spreading the virus by catching large droplets; 2) surgical masks, with a more sophisticated design also meant to prevent the wearer from spreading diseases; 3) N95 masks, which primarily protect the wearer and fit tightly to the face; and 4) face shields are clear plastic facial coverings meant to protect against splashes, sprays, and spatter of body fluids or droplets and are generally not used alone.

Cloth: A good cloth mask filters well and is comfortable to breathe through. A cloth mask should consist of three layers: an inner layer near the mouth that can get moist, a middle filtration layer and an outer layer exposed to the outside environment. You can easily make your own cloth mask at home with or without a sewing machine using a wide variety of fabrics, though tightly woven fabrics like cotton are recommended.

Surgical Masks: Surgical masks are disposable covers that are usually worn by medical professionals as personal protective equipment (PPE). They often are made of a combination of paper and plastics, and are commonly light blue in color. Surgical masks are designed to protect against large respiratory droplets but don't protect against smaller droplets. They are effective for helping protect others around you.
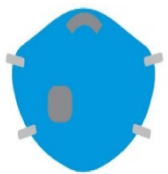
N95: True N95s aren't easy to wear properly. They must have a tight seal to the face to ensure that all air goes through the filter instead of around the edges. But they offer the best protection for the wearer against the coronavirus, which is why the World Health Organization recommends these masks be reserved for health-care workers. N95 masks filter out at least 95% of very small particles when worn properly. However, versions with a plastic valve, which makes the mask easier to exhale through, are intended for those who work in a high dust environment, and therefore do not offer protection for those around the wearer. As a result, they are not desirable at the school site.
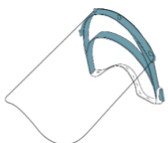
Face Shields: Face shields are clear sheets of plastic that hang down from a headband, covering the face from the top of the head to below the chin. People who keep six feet of distance from others and wear a face mask do not need a face shield. Face shields primarily provide an extra layer of protection when in sustained proximity with others. However, they do not provide the same protection as a mask because they do not provide a barrier to respiratory droplets, which can come up under them.

How to Select

When selecting a mask, there are many choices. Here are some do's and don'ts.

DO choose masks that

Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric

Completely cover your nose and mouth

Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps

Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask

DO NOT choose masks that

Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl

Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape

Are prioritized for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators

Do wear a mask that

- Covers your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Fits snugly against the sides of your face.

How NOT to wear a mask

Around your neck

On your forehead

Under your nose

Only on your nose

On your chin

Dangling from one ear

On your arm

How to take off a mask

① Carefully, untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops

② Handle only by the ear loops or ties

③ Fold the outside corners together

④ Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing

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Social Distancing

To prevent the clustering of people in hallways or rooms the following will be implemented:

- *Directional Hallways and Stairways*: When the physical school lay out allows, schools will be one-way hallways and stairways. This will streamline foot traffic when students and staff are moving between classes and during arrival and dismissal.
- *Restroom Capacity Limits*: Restrooms will be limited to 2 people at a time.
- *Elevator Capacity Limits*: Elevators will be limited to 2 people at a time.
- *Classroom Configurations*: Non-essential furniture will be removed from the classroom when possible, to increase the distance between student desks.
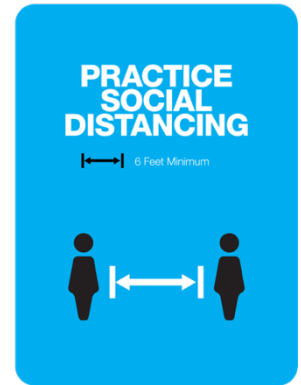
Cleaning and Sanitization Protocols

All schools will be cleaned daily after the end of each school day with the exception of restrooms which will be cleaned frequently throughout the day. To aid in the daily cleaning, every school has been provided electrostatic germicide sprayers to disinfect rooms and hallways. Additionally, buses will also be wiped down and cleaned between routes. Staff will be using hospital grade germicide when sanitizing

Visitors

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, visitor access will be limited and restricted to the main office. Visitors are not permitted to enter any District buildings under the following conditions:

1. The individual has any of the following symptoms: a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher; shortness of breath; cough; loss of taste or smell; muscle aches; weakness; chills; nausea; vomiting; or any other symptoms of COVID-19;
2. The individual has tested positive for COVID-19;
3. The individual has been exposed to someone with symptoms of COVID-19;
4. The individual has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Any visitors permitted to enter District buildings will be subject to screening and must adhere to all District guidelines.

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Breakfast and Lunch Time Protocols

Specific procedures for lunch and breakfast will vary at each school depending on the physical capacity of a school's cafeteria space. To promote social distancing, students could eat in the cafeteria, classrooms and/or other designated spaces. Additionally, schools may continue to rotate groups of students through multiple lunch time slots.

Regardless of where students will physically eat lunch, the following measures will be in place:
- Social distancing will be maintained during meals.
- If students eat meals outside of the classroom, they will be provided time to wash their hands prior to returning to class.
- Communal dining surfaces, if utilized, will be sanitized between lunch rotations.
- Students will either scan their ID or use an online payment system for contact-free payments.
- Wearing a face covering or mask will be mandatory while on campus, during lunch or while moving around campus.

Before-Care and After-Care Protocols

During before-care and after-care, all campus safety protocols must be adhered to, observing social distance where possible. For information on the availability of before-care and after-care, contact your child's school.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Instructional Continuity Plan
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduction of the Instructional Continuity Plan

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has developed a comprehensive instructional continuity plan that outlines steps to support our students, teachers, schools, and community in the event of a disruption in learning.

The 2021-2022 Instructional Continuity Plan (ICP) sets expectations relative to how students will continue receiving a quality education if they are required to self-isolate (quarantine) due to exposure to COVID-19 or testing positive for COVID-19. The ICP identifies the District's technology platforms for remote learning, Schoology and Microsoft Teams, which are both available through the student/employee portals and provide safe and secure communication channels between teachers and students. Information is also included about Zoom Video Conferencing which is accessible through both Schoology and Microsoft Teams and requires Single-Sign On (SSO) authentication.

Information regarding school-based mobile device checkout is also included in the event that students need to check out devices for use during quarantine. Students experiencing technical difficulties with district-issued devices must call their school for assistance. The most updated information on connectivity options is also included for reference.

The District continually offers teachers opportunities for professional development. Many of these professional development courses include the use of digital instructional materials or instructional technologies to create a blended learning environment and highlight how specific resources can be used in a remote learning setting. Teachers can also access recorded webinars related to remote classroom models, best practices for distance learning, utilizing the instructional materials in a blended learning classroom, and much more through the Employee Portal, located in the Curriculum Resources folder or in the Curriculum Resources Group within Schoology.

Finally, we have included information about daily attendance procedures so that you will know what students need to do each day to be considered present.

The district ICP website located at http://icp.dadeschools.net has been updated to reflect this new information.

Transitioning to Remote Teaching and Learning

Communication is essential to online learning. The District's communications platforms are Schoology and Microsoft Teams. Both Schoology and Microsoft Teams are located in the Employee and Student Portals as dedicated access tiles (see below). The district's new learning management system (LMS), Schoology, serves as the learning hub that provides a versatile platform for content delivery, communication, collaboration, and professional development. Likewise, Microsoft Teams is a digital hub that brings conversations, content, and assignments together in one place for those opting to use Teams in lieu of the LMS. Additionally, the District has purchased the enterprise version of Zoom. The Zoom application is now available within Schoology & Microsoft Teams and requires users to use single sign-on credentials for authentication. Zoom can support the District's distance learning plan by facilitating the following activities:

- Administrative staff meetings to connect faculty across the school and/or district
- Virtual field trips to bring the world inside the classroom and enrich student learning
- Virtual professional development offerings
- Communication tool for important safety information via audio and video
- Ability for educators to simulcast their classroom to offsite classrooms and individual online learners
- Virtual tutoring, study hall, and mentoring

Both Schoology & Microsoft Teams can be accessed via the Student or Employee portals by clicking on the respective tiles on the Portal homepage.

During the 2021-2022 school year, teachers may be asked to temporarily deliver instruction remotely using either Microsoft Teams or Schoology if the school, classroom, or individual students face emergency disruptions due to requirements to quarantine. To ensure continuity of learning for students, all teachers should have either a Microsoft Teams group or a Schoology course template prepared for students to access remotely. Below are steps to follow to ensure that plans are in place for delivering remote instruction:

Microsoft Teams

Courses and Class Teams were created in Microsoft Teams for the 2021-2022 school year. District courses were created and populated with students. Microsoft Teams can be accessed through the Employee and Student Portals.
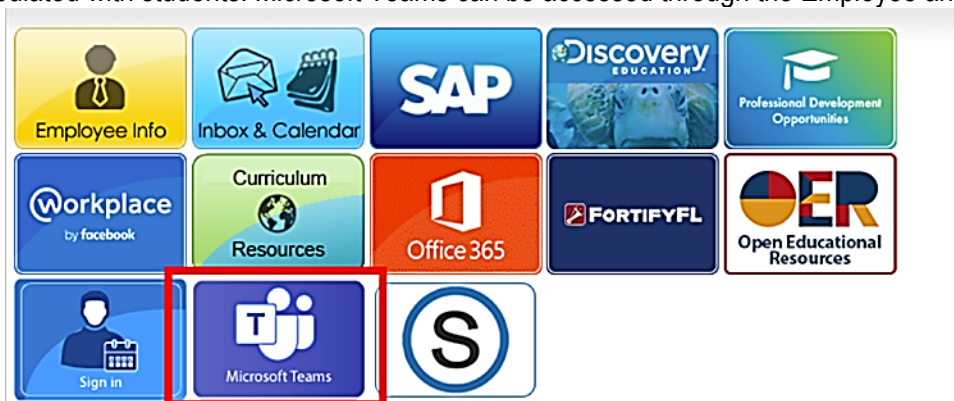
Class Teams added by the district are visible as thumbnails, one for each class, and have course names and codes autogenerated by the student information system.
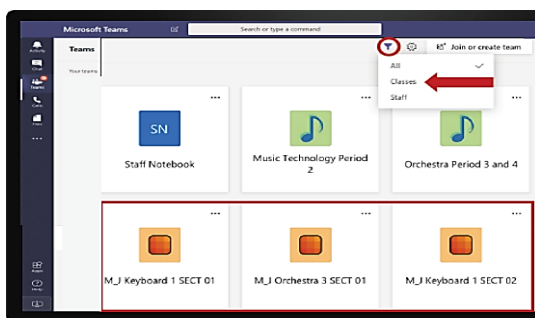
The District has put together two Miami-Dade quick start guides for Teams: *Microsoft Teams for Educators* and *Microsoft Teams for Students*. MS Teams video tutorials to help educators get the most out of Teams are available on the *M-DCPS Eduvision Channel.*

Schoology

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has selected Schoology as its learning management system (LMS). Schoology will serve as a hub for the District's vast collection of digital resources and as a tool for the delivery of instructional content. Schoology has been rostered for teachers, courses, and students for the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers have access to empty course templates for each of their classes and their students are rostered for each of the classes. Schoology can be accessed through the Employee and Student Portals.

Professional development sessions were provided throughout the summer months and will continue throughout the 2021-2022 school year. The introductory training, *Schoology 101*, provides teachers with the knowledge needed to get started with the learning management system by showing the steps for setting up courses, developing course materials, grading, assessing, and providing feedback. *Schoology 102* is the second training for teachers. This professional development course builds on what teachers learned in the introductory course by focusing on student discussions, assignment rubrics, assessment creation, and accessing resources and groups within the system. For information on any of the professional development sessions, please go to lms.dadeschools.net. In addition to the workshops mentioned above, the District has made available a self-paced course and two pre-recorded webinars to introduce teachers and administrators to Schoology, accessible through Schoology in the Curriculum Resources Group.

An empty course template is also available in the Curriculum Resources group for teachers to utilize as a guide when developing course materials, discussions, and assignments. The empty course template includes folders for teachers to customize with their course content, student support documents, and student resources and links.

Content Delivery During Remote Learning

Inevitably, some students will be required to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 or testing positive for the virus. If a student is not present in class due to quarantine, they will participate in remote learning until they are cleared to return for in-person instruction.   During remote learning, every effort must be made to ensure that our students' education continues uninterrupted.

As always, teachers have the flexibility to deliver content to students through the district-provided digital resources or through teacher-identified and vetted resources aligned to the course standards/benchmarks, or through a combination of both. This practice will continue during any future COVID-related school closures or student quarantines.

Below is the instructional model that teachers will use to provide students with quality instruction when in-person classes are interrupted. There are two versions of the instructional model: teacher is in-person in the classroom or teacher is in quarantine. Both versions require all teachers to turn on their District-provided classroom conference camera or other computer-based web camera to allow students who are quarantined to continue to access instruction. In some cases, teachers will have in-person students and remote students during the same instructional block.

TEACHER-DIRECTED INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL FOR REMOTE STUDENTS

Teacher Is In-Person in Classroom

- Teacher provides remote students with Microsoft Teams or Zoom (through single sign-on authentication) link to join the class.
- Teacher turns on conference camera or computer-based web camera while delivering lesson to in-person students so remote students can passively view classroom instruction to obtain similar benefits of in-person learning and support student achievement.
- Teacher provides remote students assignments and activities using the District's Pacing Guides, Curriculum Guides, or adopted instructional materials through Microsoft Teams or Schoology, the District's learning management system (LMS).
- Teacher, at his/her sole discretion, may integrate remote students into classroom activities by fully engaging in dual modality.
- Teacher who opts not to use dual modality for remote students will respond to remote students' questions regarding curriculum and assignments within 24 hours.
- Class link remains active during the entire class block.
- Student communication can be accomplished through phone, email, Teams, Schoology, or other digital application selected by teacher.

TEACHER-DIRECTED INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL FOR REMOTE STUDENTS

Teacher Is in Quarantine

- Teacher provides remote students with Microsoft Teams or Zoom (through single sign-on authentication) link to participate in the lesson.
- Teacher turns on conference camera or computer-based web camera to deliver live lessons via video conferencing platform such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom through single sign-on authentication.
- Teacher maintains camera on for the full instructional block/period.
- Teacher provides students with instructions, assignments, and resources using the District's Pacing Guides, Curriculum Guides, or adopted instructional materials through Microsoft Teams or Schoology, and students work independently or in small groups after participating in the teacher-directed part of the lesson.
- Teacher remains online during the entire class block to assist students, answer questions, work with small groups, or provide one-on-one instruction.
- Student communication can be accomplished through phone, email, Teams, Schoology, or other digital application selected by teacher.

M-DCPS Pacing Guides

The Division of Academics develops annual Instructional Pacing Guides to help teachers plan for the delivery of standards-based instruction according to their assigned courses and outlines. The Pacing Guides also provide teachers with support to create blended learning lessons/assignments for students across all grade levels. These guides can be found in the Curriculum Resources tab in the Employee Portal and in the District's Learning Management System, Schoology. All teachers have been added to the Curriculum Resources group within Schoology for their convenience. The Pacing Guides in Schoology are located within the grade-level folder for each subject area. Short webinars have been created and posted in the folders explaining the information in the Pacing Guides and how teachers can use these to plan blended learning lessons/assignments that can be delivered using the instructional delivery models previously described: teacher-directed in-person or teacher-directed in quarantine.

Employee Portal View

Schoology View

Sample Pacing Guide

Mobile Devices: *Distribution Plan*

Mobile Devices
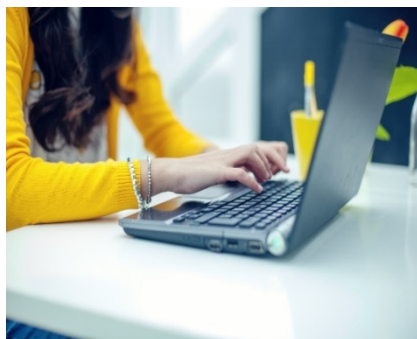
This past school year, the COVID-19 pandemic intensified the need for students to have access to mobile devices and Internet connectivity.   For the 2021-2022 school year, students in grades four through twelve who need a mobile device to complete school assignments can request and check one out through their schools. Families of prekindergarten through grade three students can request to check out a mobile device from their children's schools if they must quarantine and need a device to access remote instruction. For detailed device distribution information, schools should refer to Weekly Briefings #31060 and #31168.

To receive a mobile device, parents need to complete the digital 2021-2022 Mobile Device Agreement in the Parent Portal or Mobile App. In the Portal, parents should look under the APPS-SERVICES-SITES tab for the **District Device Acknowledgement Form**.

In the Mobile App, parents should click Apps and select **Mobile Agrmt**. Parents of students with an unknown or new M-DCPS student ID number should contact school staff for assistance. See Figure 1.

Figure 1
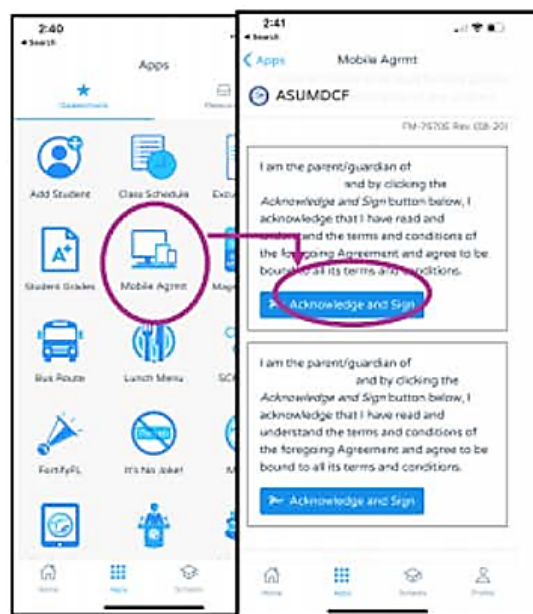
Parents of students who are checking out devices will be informed of the availability of mobile device insurance to cover device damage for an entire year. The mobile device insurance information for M-DCPS can be accessed at https://securranty.com/dadeschools. See Figure 2.

Figure 2

Internet Access

Hotspots

Hotspots to access the Internet are available as part of Project 10Million through T-Mobile. Families whose children qualify for the Free/Reduced Lunch program are eligible to receive a hotspot device. These hotspots are available for distribution on a "one device per family" basis and are subject to availability. Supplies are limited. Schools can request the necessary hotspots and coordinate delivery/pick-up from their assigned Region Office.

Miami Connected Program

Students on free or reduced lunch throughout the district may apply for two years of free Comcast Internet Essentials service through Miami Connected. Families may register online at MiamiConnected.org

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)

Families may apply for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a federal program that provides a discount of up to $50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households. Several internet service providers participate in this program including Xfinity, ATT and Verizon. Please click on the hyperlinks for more information.

Comcast's Internet Essentials

Comcast's Internet Essentials continues to be available to the community at a rate of $9.95 per month + tax. There are no credit checks, term contracts, or cancellation fees. Internet Essentials will provide subscribers download speeds of up to 50 Mbps and upload speeds of up to 5 Mbps. This program will support the federal Emergency Broadband Benefit program for cost reduction. Comcast does require an application and supporting documents in order to meet eligibility. For more information, click here.

Access from AT&T Program

AT&T offers internet access for qualifying limited income households at $10 a month through their Access from AT&T program. The program provides download speeds up to 25 Mbps and is also supported by the Emergency Broadband Benefit. To learn more, click here.

Attendance

To capture student attendance in school and classes, the District follows established attendance protocols and procedures as defined in School Board Policy, 5200 – Attendance. Students will attend school in-person during regular school hours and follow a standard school bell schedule. Official school attendance will be recorded and maintained for all classes assigned.

Florida Law (Section 1003.21, Florida Statutes) states that children of compulsory school age must attend school regularly during the entire school term. As such, M-DCPS maintains an affirmative obligation to inform parents of student absences, and to ensure that the compulsory attendance laws are enforced. Raising standards and promoting a high level of student achievement are paramount in all District initiatives. Ensuring consistent student attendance is a means of improving student performance and is critical in raising student standards.

School Attendance: Students are to be counted in attendance only if they are physically present for at least two (2 hours) of the day or engaged in a school-approved educational activity which constitutes a part of the instructional program for the student. (Board Policy 5200 – Attendance)

Class Attendance: Students are to be counted in attendance if they are physically present in the class for at least half of the class period, have been excused by the teacher on a class related assignment, or have been requested by a member of the school support staff for an approved school activity.

All absences will initially be recorded as "**U**" unexcused absences. The school will change the status, if appropriate, to "**A**" (excused) on receipt of a valid reason for the absence. A Daily Attendance code has been created to be used with students under a quarantine/stay-home order (code "S8" Health Alert/Quarantine). This code must only be used with students who have a stay-home directive, are under a quarantine order or are not physically present in school due to contact with, or the contraction of COVID-19.

Where a student is under a stay-home directive, the student may only be considered in attendance if the following criteria are met: (a) The school has adopted procedures to continue the education of the student during the stay-home directive; (b) These procedures rely upon continuing the student's access to assignments and curriculum they would be receiving were they physically present in school; and (c) Instructional personnel or administrative personnel must be available to assist the student with assignments and curriculum during the stay-home directive.

Documentation for an excused absence shall be reported to the student's school by the parent **no later than three (3) days** from the date of the absence. To report an excused absence:

- email a statement of the cause for such absence directly to the school's attendance email address.
- submit a statement of the cause for such absence via the parent portal/mobile app.
- submit a hard copy note directly to the school.

Bus Transportation

The District will provide transportation for eligible students. To minimize the risk to the safety of students and adults on the way to and from school, the district will implement several protocols. From the CDC Guidelines: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html

During school transportation: Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order. Learn more here.

Instructions and Signage

To help teachers, students and visitors navigate school buildings safely, signs will be posted throughout our campuses to help keep everyone safe.

Food Service

- All students are eligible for FREE breakfast and lunch meals for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Students will scan their ID cards for meal accountability, eliminating the use of keypads.
- For meals served in the classroom, meal accountability will be completed by the teacher.
- School meal schedules shall provide time for thorough handwashing by students before and after meals, as well as time for custodial staff to sanitize dining surfaces between uses.

Athletics

Miami -Dade County Public Schools will continue to follow guidance as released from the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) as it pertains to athletics. Practice for fall sports began August 2, 2021 with athletic competitions beginning on August 16th.   The Division of Athletics, Activities & Accreditation through the Greater Miami Athletic Conference (GMAC) will participate in all high school sports sanctioned by the FHSAA. Additionally, the Division of Athletics, Activities & Accreditation will offer the Middle School Athletics Program (MSAP) to our Middle School and K-8 Centers for the 2021-2022 school year.

STAY SAFE ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Stay home if you are sick.

Bring your own equipment and gear (if possible)

Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.

Wash your hands or use sanitizer before and after events and sharing equipment.

Tell a coach or staff member if you don't feel well.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Extracurricular Activities, Field Trips and School Events

CLUBS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Clubs and various extracurricular activities will be permitted provided that it adheres to current CDC guidelines as it pertains to group size limitations, social distancing and the usage of facial coverings. It is suggested that these events be held virtually if at all possible.

FIELD TRIPS
Field trips are permissible pending principal and Region approval. Field trips must adhere to current CDC guidelines as it pertains to group size limitations, social distancing and the usage of facial coverings during transportation and while participating in the approved event. It is suggested that these events be held virtually if at all possible.
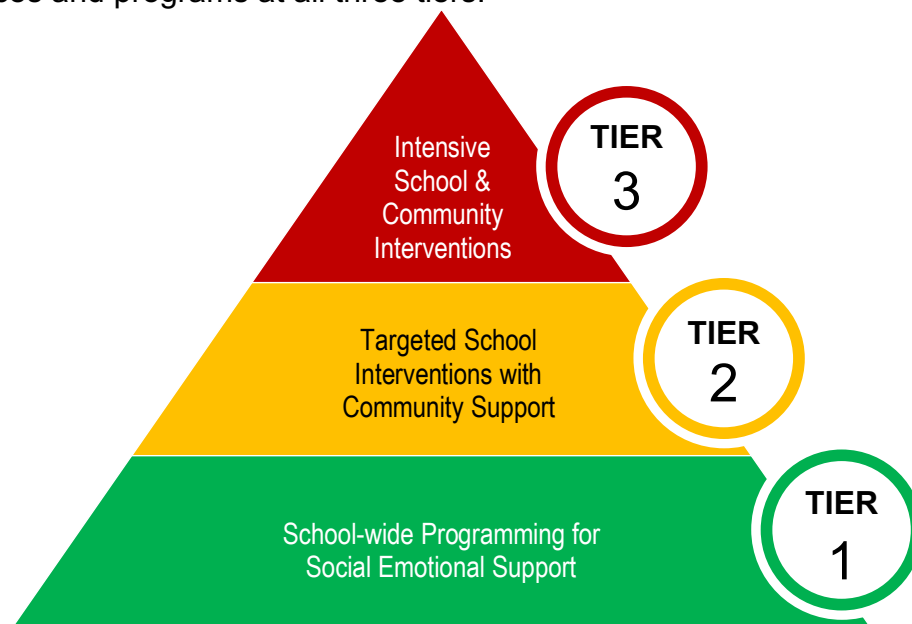
Services and Wraparound Supports

SECTION

02

Services and Wraparound Supports

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Through these challenging times, Miami-Dade County Public Schools remains dedicated to providing all students not only with a quality academic experience but to supporting students' social emotional and mental health. Poor mental health is a barrier to the learning and overall well-being of students, and the District continues to follow a Multi-Tiered System of Support which provides support services across 3 tiers to ensure all students have access to programs and services matched to their strengths and needs. School-based mental health professionals including counselors, social workers, psychologists, mental health coordinators and teachers utilize MTSS to provide a full array of services and programs at all three tiers.

Intensive School & Community Interventions

TIER 3

Targeted School Interventions with Community Support

TIER 2

School-wide Programming for Social Emotional Support

TIER 1

Tier 1: School-wide Programming for Social Emotional Support
School-wide social-emotional learning programs are provided as ongoing support for all students to foster their social-emotional wellness and to create a connected school environment. These programs encourage mutual respect for individual differences and promote tolerance and inclusivity, establishing an environment where students feel physically and emotionally safe.

Tier 2: Targeted School Interventions with Community Support
Early outreach and interventions are provided for students who need more targeted support. These students are referred to school counseling professionals who identify needs and implement services.

Tier 3: Intensive School and Community Interventions
Intensive intervention and mental health services are provided for students who need this type of individual support. District mental health professionals collaborate with the students' families to connect these students with appropriate services.

TIER 1

Universal Programs

1. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs that are implemented schoolwide as safe and supportive learning tools.
2. Restorative Justice Practices (RJP) implemented to assist with student voice
3. Mindfulness and Meditation implemented for stress relief and coping strategies
4. Values Matter Miami with a new alignment to social-emotional competencies to support student wellness
5. State-required Mental Health Education for all students in grades 6-12.

Tier 1 Support
Tier 1 support includes social emotional learning, restorative justice practices, mindfulness and Values Matter Miami. Students also are provided virtual modules through English/Language Arts to fulfill the five-hour mandated Mental and Emotional Health programs for secondary students. "Brain breaks" have also been incorporated into the curriculum for grades K-12.

TIER 2

Targeted Interventions

1. Small group counseling
2. Individual counseling support provided by school site staff
3. Specialized services for vulnerable populations (foster, LGBTQ, homeless, etc.)
4. Mental Health Screening
5. Mental Health Team: targeted requests for student consultation
6. Student referrals to mental health coordinator
7. Small-group interventions
8. Mentoring
9. Student-led initiatives
10. Professional Development: Mental Health Awareness, Trauma-Informed Practices

Tier 2 Support
Tier 2 involves targeted interventions based on referrals to school-based mental health professionals from teachers, administrators and/or parents. Types of interventions include small group and individual counseling, mental health screening as well as professional development for trauma informed practices. Interventions may occur virtually or in a space which can accommodate social distancing.

TIER 3

Intensive Interventions

1. Social-Emotional Behavior Intervention Plan (SE-BIP)
2. Suicide At-Risk Assessment
3. Threat Assessment/Mental Health Assessment
4. Individual Interventions
5. Referral to Contracted Mental Health Agencies

Tier 3 Support
Intensive intervention and mental health services are provided for students who need more intensive individual support. District mental health professionals collaborate with the students' family to connect these students with appropriate services. Individual and family services can occur remotely through telehealth counseling.

Mental Health Supports

The District maintains a mental health assistance line to support our community at-large and provides student specific support. Parents are able to use the assistance line to schedule a virtual or in-person appointment at their child's school, if needed. When students go to schools for their appointments, safety protocols are in place and these meetings occur in a designated location in the school building to minimize the number of people students come in contact with.

A blended model of support, inclusive of in-person and virtual deployment of mental health services, is provided for schoolhouse and MSO. Services performed in the schoolhouse will occur in a dedicated location that allows for physical distancing.

Parents and students are encouraged to contact the Mental Health Assistance Line for immediate support, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The District's licensed/certified mental health coordinators will continue to support students and families throughout the school year and summer, linking them to resources, providing individual and family counseling services and referrals to community and contracted agencies to ensure they receive the immediate support needed. Parents are encouraged to contact the Assistance Line at any time for support for their child. In some instances, students may be referred to one of the District's contracted community mental health providers to ensure additional layers of support where needed.

Helplines

M-DCPS Mental Health Assistance Line
(305) 995-7100
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS) Helpline Services
2-1-1 Helpline (24/7) or (305) 576-6550

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (8255) or Text

National Crisis Text Line
741741

Looking for additional resources?

For additional information or assistance, please visit the websites listed below or scan the QR codes provided.

Department of Mental Health Services (M-DCPS)
http://mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net/

The Parent Academy
https://parentacademymiami.com

Family and Community Engagement

SECTION

03

Family Engagement

Keeping Families Informed

To keep families updated and informed the District will be utilizing the following

Parent Portal

The portal will be the primary place where families should access their student(s) grades and schedule. To access this, the parent's account must be linked to their student's. Parents can contact their student's school and provide proper identification to obtain their unique six-digit pin needed to link the accounts. Scan the QR code to the left or visit http://www.dadeschools.net/parents.asp.

Dadeschools Mobile App

Parents are recommended to have their student(s) linked to their account. Parents can contact their student's school and provide proper identification to obtain their unique six-digit pin needed to link the accounts. The App is available on both the App Store and Google Play.

Back to School Website

The official back to school website will have the most up to date information including comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Scan the QR code to the left or visit http://backtoschool.dadeschools.net.

School Site

Parents are encouraged to follow the Twitter account of their student's school and visit the school's website. School contact information can be found on the District's School Directory website or by scanning the QR code to the left. Parents should also visit the District's Eduvision channel by scanning the QR code on the right.

Social Media

Below are the social media sites and handles that the District will use to provide up-to-date information to families and the community at large.

@MDCPS
@EscuelasMDCPS
@MiamiSUP

@MiamiSchools
@MiamiSup

@MiamiSchools
@AlbertoMCarvalho1

@MiamiSchools

Support Hotlines

The District will maintain several different hotlines for parents, teachers and students to provide additional support in the aforementioned areas. The numbers and hours of these hotlines will be broadcast via social media and other communications from the District.

- *Mental Health Hotline***:** The hotline **(305-995-7100)** is open to any parents and students seeking mental health support.

Employee Assistance Program

https://hrdadeschools.net/empassistance/

Employee Wellness Program

http://wellway.dadeschools.net/#!/

HR/Leave & Retirement

https://hrdadeschools.net/leaveretirement/

Human Resources/ADA

https://hrdadeschools.net/ada/

Student Vaccinations

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is urging parents/guardians to check their student's immunization records to see if they are due for any mandated school entry vaccines. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, it's important for students to receive vaccinations to protect them from preventable disease and outbreaks. During the upcoming influenza season, the flu shot will also be critically important to reduce the impact of respiratory illnesses in the community. **All M-DCPS students are required to have the mandatory school age vaccines for the 2021-2022 school year.**

Parents/guardians should not wait to contact their medical provider to schedule an appointment. Not only are school age vaccines required for school, vaccinations prevent illnesses that lead to unnecessary medical visits, hospitalizations and further strain on the healthcare system.

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, Federally Qualified Health Centers, University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic and the Jessie Trice Community Health System provide FREE or low-cost vaccines. Fliers from all four organizations, with hours of availability and locations, can be found on the main page of the District's website located at http://www.dadeschools.net/ or by scanning the QR code on the right.

Supporting Students in School

To support students and to help ensure their safety, best practices for families include:

- Ensure your student is up-to-date on their routine immunizations. See the appendix for a list of places providing immunization services.
- Communicate often with your student's teacher. Good relationships are based on regular, meaningful two-way communication.
- Set guidelines and clear expectations of good behavior and academic performance and foster a positive attitude toward school and learning.
- Families should perform a temperature and symptom check every morning for their student(s) prior to dropping them off at school or letting them get on a school bus.
- If a parent/guardian drops a student off at school, the parent/guardian should stay in the car to reduce the amount of foot traffic during arrival time.
- Do a material check each night to make sure the student has their laptop, charger, and other school materials in their backpack.
- Particularly with younger students, have conversations prior to going back to school to teach the student what safe behavior looks like (e.g. proper mask wearing, hand washing, social distancing).
- Check in daily with your student to make sure they are keeping up in their classes.
- Contact the teacher as soon as possible with any concerns.

Community Engagement

Dade Partners: Community Partnerships

The District will continue to offer its Dade Partners program to connect business and community-based organizations with schools to share their expertise and resources. We will continue to maintain our existing partnerships while looking for new organizations that are interested supporting our community through donating students, teachers and families with classroom supplies and materials, providing incentives in recognition of student or family accomplishments or sponsoring other district programs. Interested organizations can email dadepartners@dadeschools.net, visit https://www.engagemiamidade.net/community-dade-partners, or scan the QR code above.

Academic Year Internship Program

The District will continue to offer the Academic Year Internship Program for high school juniors and seniors throughout the 2021-2022 year. To align with the working practices of different organizations and to maintain the safety of students and their families, some internships may require students to work virtually. To become an internship provider and participate in the program, email internships@dadeschools.net, scan the QR code on the right, or visit www.engagemiamidade.net/internships.

Students interested in participating in the program should register at https://aymiami.getmyinterns.org/Account/RegisterStudent (or scan the QR code on the right) where they will be approved by the high school Internship coordinator to participate in the program.

School Volunteers

The School Volunteer Program matches the resources of community members with the needs of our students and schools to support the District's goal of student achievement. Expanding the services of school volunteers to the virtual space allows supports such as tutoring, mentoring and various tasks from home. Before beginning service, all volunteers must register through the M-DCPS portal and complete a background screening. To become a school volunteer or mentor call 305-995-2995, email schoolvolunteerprogram@dadeschools.net, scan the QR code on the right or visit https://www.engagemiamidade.net/community-volunteer-regist.

Adult Education & Technical Colleges
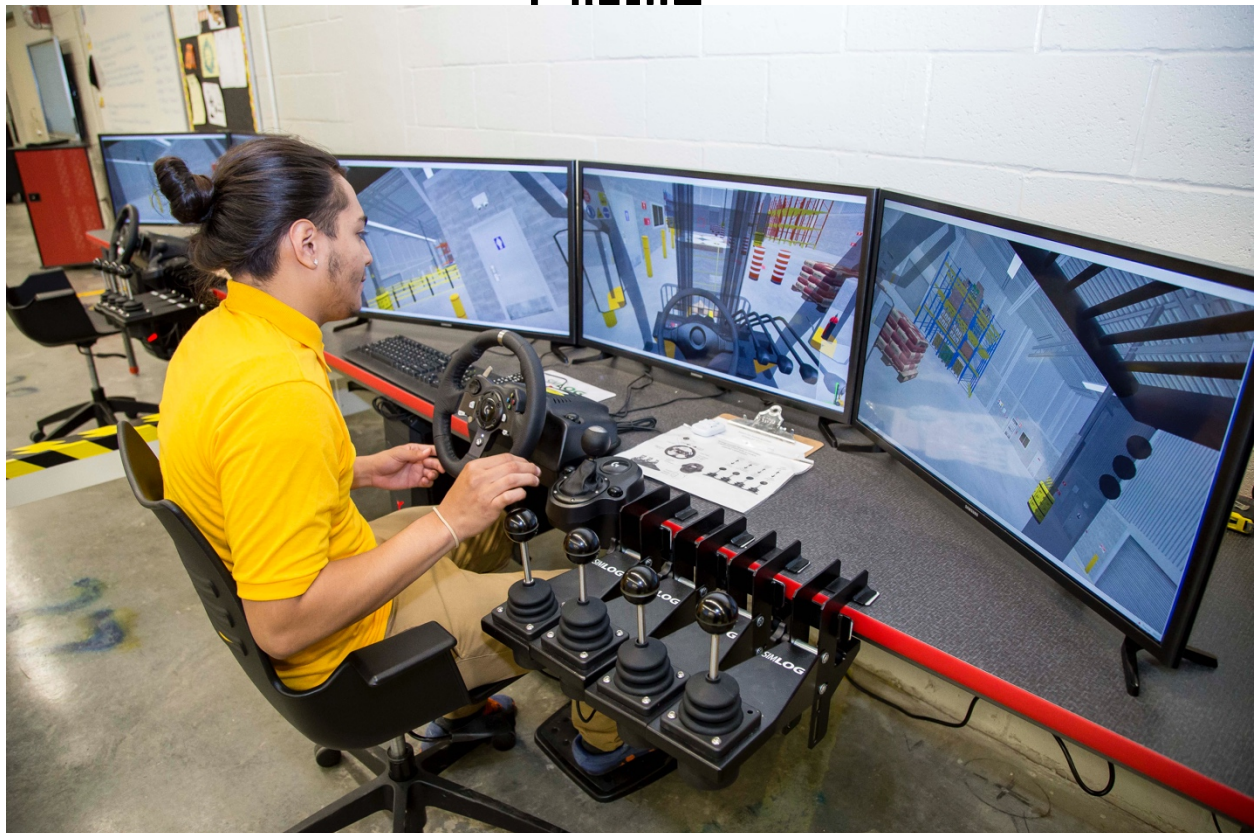
SECTION

04

Adult Education & Technical Colleges

For the Adult Education Programs (AE) which focus on Adult Basic Education, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), GED® Preparation, and High School Completion, students have the choice of receiving instruction face to face as well as remotely utilizing the CANVAS online platform. This multiple-choice method enables classes to be offered at various times, thereby increasing the options for post-secondary education students.

All Post-Secondary Technical College (TC) programs are offered through face-to-face instruction. Selective courses are offered utilizing a hybrid class model that mandates face to face instruction as well as remote learning utilizing the CANVAS online platform.

The District has established an AE & TC helpline (305 558-8000) to assist current, returning, and new AGE students and students in technical colleges with information related to program availability and continuation of instructional services.

More information can be found on our website: http://adulted.dadeschools.net/
or use the QR link below.

Employee Support

Work Location Protocols

To keep employees safe, the District has developed a series of core practices to be used across all work sites including:

- Conduct daily health self screenings prior to entering the work site.
- Contact the site administrator for guidance when an employee is experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms or has tested positive. Distance employee work stations and follow social distancing guidelines.
- Create physical barriers in cases where employees' job functions require face-to-face contact with members of the public.
- Limit the sharing of equipment to the extent possible and frequent cleaning of shared equipment.
- Promote virtual meetings as much as possible.
- Establish requirements to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission to include the mandatory wearing of face coverings and enhanced hand hygiene practices.
- Increase sanitation of office spaces.
- Limit capacities in elevators and in bathrooms.
- Provide hand sanitizing stations in high traffic areas.

01. Daily Health Screening
02. Distanced Workstations
03. Physical Barriers
04. Avoided Sharing of Equipment
05. Virtual Meetings
06. PPE / Increased Sanitation

Mental Health Supports and Benefits

Employees may seek cost free and confidential support for their mental and emotional needs using the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and Employee Wellness Program. The EAP will provide ongoing assessments, counseling, referrals, and case/care management as needed. Additionally, the District's Employee Wellness Program – Well Way, remains committed to promoting the physical and mental wellbeing of all staff through employee education and partnerships for services, including telemedicine and telecounseling.

Employees with greater risk for complications associated with COVID-19 who may need accommodations to perform their work duties may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office for assistance. Extended Family and Medical Leave may also be provided to both full-time and hourly employees who are unable to work or telework due to reasons related to COVID-19 and associated childcare responsibilities.

Employees can access each of the aforementioned offices using the numbers listed below:

EAP	305-995-7111	ADA	305-995-7116
Wellness	305-995-2265	FMLA	305-995-7090

Need more information?

For additional information, click on the links to visit the websites below or scan the QR codes provided.

Employee Assistance Program

https://hrdadeschools.net/empassistance/

Employee Wellness Program

http://wellway.dadeschools.net/#!/

HR/Leave & Retirement

https://hrdadeschools.net/leaveretirement/

Human Resources/ADA

https://hrdadeschools.net/ada/

Additional Resources

COVID-19 Information from Other Agencies

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus 2021 Back to School Planning: Checklists to Guide Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers may be found at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html

Florida Department of Health: The Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7 | 1 (866) 779-6121 | COVID-19@flhealth.gov Information directly related to schools and childcare may be found at https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/schools/

Florida Department of Education (FDOE): Information related to COVID-19, including links to approved district reopening plans and other guidance provided by the FDOE, may be found at http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/index.stml

Miami-Dade County COVID-19 Dashboard: Information related to the latest local data, local emergency orders, and local guidelines may be found at https://www.miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page

Community Feedings, Food Distribution, and Assistance for Families in Need

The resources below are provided for the information and convenience of the public, and the events are being organized by partner entities. Please note that sites and events are subject to change.

Share Your Heart. Share Your Heart (SYHVC)
http://victoryforyouth.org/shareyourheart/miami-dade-food-pickup-locations/

Farm Share
https://farmshare.org/food-distributions/

Feeding South Florida
https://feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19/

New Student Registration

Miami-Dade County's public schools will resume learning Monday, August 23 to start the 2021-2022 school year. All children who have reached the age of six or who will be six years old by September 1st of any year or who are between the ages of 6 and 16, except as otherwise provided in Florida law, are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term. All children enrolling in a District school shall meet the immunization requirements by state law, and provide evidence of a physical examination. The following documents are to be provided upon initial registration:

- original birth certificate;
- verification of age and legal name;
- proof of a physical examination by an approved health care provider including a tuberculosis clinical screening, appropriate follow-up, and a certificate of immunization;
- two (2) verification of parent/legal current residence (address);
- Disclosure at Time of Registration (Form 5740); and
  student residency questionnaire / Children and Youth In Transition Form FM-7378 Project UP-START (homeless)

Students transferring from out of state, other districts in Florida, or who are foreign born, must adhere to the same admission and entrance requirements for registration. All students are assigned to attend the school in the district where their parents/legal guardians reside, unless the child has received an assignment to another school through a Parent Choice Student Transfer (http://attendanceservices.dadeschools.net/#!/) or through Miami-Dade County Public Schools' School Choice & Parental Options (https://yourchoicemiami.org).

To find your neighborhood's area schools, you may access www.dadeschools.net, select *Schools*, *Find your Neighborhood School.* Although there is no cut-off date for registering, students are urged to register early to avoid processing delays and to ensure they can attend school on opening day. Visit attendanceservices.dadeschools.net for more information about registration.

Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPD)

Enhancing security and enforcing the law are top priority duties for the officers of the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPD). They also play important roles in students' lives and their positions carry several other responsibilities. School Resource Officers, who are sworn police officers regularly stationed within schools, also serve as problem solvers, youth advocates, school and community liaisons, mentors, counselors, classroom instructors and positive role models. For the safety and security of students and staff, MDSPD School Resource Officers also participate in numerous trainings throughout the year, to include, but not limited to: Implicit Bias, Procedural Justice, Crisis Intervention, De-escalation, Active Shooter and Stop the Bleed/CPR.

The state-of-the-art MDSPD Police Command Center (PCC) was created to be the nucleus of the agency's intelligence policing approach. It has the capability of remote

viewing more than 18,000 cameras in real-time. The PCC is monitored by staff to enhance police response time. It has various data resources, including the Raptor Visitor and Volunteer Management System, which is a single platform system that has screened over several million visitors annually to school sites. The PCC allows staff to monitor schools and keep track of several safety programs including "If You See Something, Say Something" and FortifyFL. For more information, visit https://mdspolice.com/.

Civil Rights Compliance

The M-DCPS Office of Civil Rights Compliance (CRC) strives to ensure that all members of the District community value and respect each other's contributions and opinions without regard to the protected categories of age, citizenship status, color, disability, gender, gender identity, genetic information (GINA), linguistic preference, marital status, political beliefs, pregnancy, race, religion, sexual orientation, or social/family background. CRC's mission is to deter harassment and discrimination through training and prompt, thorough investigations of complaints of harassment and discrimination based on the protected categories. Additionally, CRC responds to complaints and charges filed with state and federal enforcement agencies.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates as required by Title IX. M-DCPS also does not discriminate on the basis of sex in admissions or employment. For additional information about Title IX or any other discrimination/harassment concerns, contact the U.S. Department of Education Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights or:

Office of Civil Rights Compliance (CRC)
Executive Director/Title IX Coordinator
155 N.E. 15th Street, Suite P104E
Miami, Florida 33132
Phone: (305) 995-1580 TDD: (305) 995-2400 Email: crc@dadeschools.net Website:
https://hrdadeschools.net/civilrights

Citizen Information Center

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Citizen Information Center (CIC) is the place to go for answers to general questions about the school system. Located in Room 102 of the School Board Administration Building, 1450 N. E. Second Ave., the center also provides the public with documents, general information and agendas for the School Board meetings.

Citizens can contact the center at 305-995-1128 or visit Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. once the School Board Administration Building reopens. The Citizen Information Center Website may be found at cic.dadeschools.net. The CIC Website contains links to frequently viewed sites, as well as forms used to place public records requests and to request appearances before the School Board.

Fee-Based Before and After-School Care Programs at Elementary Schools and K-8 Centers

M-DCPS will offer approximately 300 after-school care programs that will be implemented at all public elementary schools and K-8 Centers and at some middle schools on school days. After-school care programs are conducted from the time of school dismissal until 6 p.m. Parents should check with their child's school for specific start times. Before-school programs are offered at the principal's discretion and begin approximately one hour before school starts.

All after-school care programs provide planned activities, which include homework assistance, indoor and outdoor games, arts and crafts, snack time and various recreational activities. Many programs offer reading and math tutoring, STEM activities, music, computer lab, ceramics, chess, drama and other classes designed to provide participants with a variety of educational and enrichment experiences. Before-school care programs provide supervised, quiet activities for students. The cost of after-school care is $40 per week; the cost of before-school care is $20 per week. All after-school care payments can now be paid online by using the FOCUS link found on the M-DCPS Parent portal. These programs are implemented by one of six approved providers.

Summer Camp programs are offered each summer on a limited basis, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Go to www.dadecommunityschools.net for more information, and to verify dates and times at a site that is nearest to you. Interested parents should contact the principal's office at their child's school to learn which programs are offered. Further information may be obtained by calling Victor Ferrante, Executive Director, at 305-817-0014, ext. 2500.

Community Schools Provide Educational Opportunities at Affordable Prices

Individuals will have the opportunity to continue taking advantage of the broad educational opportunities offered through Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Community Education Program. Customized offerings have been created to satisfy the instructional needs of individuals or small community groups that want to sharpen or learn a completely new skill.

M-DCPS operates 17 community schools and 21 adult education sites offering classes in just about every subject from yoga to foreign languages to photography – either free or at very affordable prices. Classes are available in the afternoon or evening to individuals or groups of all ages, skill levels and language capabilities. All Community School class payments can now be paid online by using the FOCUS link found on the M-DCPS Parent portal. For more information on the advantages of community education, call Victor Ferrante, Executive Director, at 305-817-0014, ext. 2500 or log on to www.dadecommunityschools.net.

Code of Student Conduct

The Code of Student Conduct (COSC) is aligned to local, state, and federal mandates with an emphasis on promoting a safe learning environment to ensure academic success. COSC sets the standards of conduct expected of students in a

purposeful and safe learning environment, in which the principles of care, courtesy, civility, fairness, acceptance of diversity, and respect for the rights of others is valued. It also addresses the role of the parents/guardians, the students, and school, while also focusing on core values and model student behavior, rights and responsibilities of students, addressing student behavior, and disciplinary procedures.

Furthermore, it should also be noted that behaviors committed on or off the school campus may be violations of the COSC and may also be violations of Florida law. These violations may result in disciplinary actions imposed by local law enforcement authorities, in addition to those of the school/district. The Superintendent, principals, and other administrators shall assign discipline/corrective strategies to students pursuant to the Code of Student Conduct and, where required by law, protect the student's due process rights to notice, hearing, and appeal.

Students or parents having difficulties interpreting the COSC should address concerns through the school principal. Additionally, should the concerns not be resolved at the school level, an appeal can be made at the region office and subsequently to the District. Parents/guardians can access the COSC in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole on the M-DCPS' website at http://ehandbooks.dadeschools.net/policies/90/index.htm or they may request a copy from their child's school.

Florida KidCare: Child Health Insurance You Can Afford!

Florida KidCare is comprehensive quality health insurance for children from birth to age 18, who are uninsured. Any family can apply; the amount paid is based on income and family size. Most families pay $15 or $20 each month or nothing at all. Many of our students may be eligible for health insurance through Florida KidCare, even if one or both parents are working. A parent's immigration status is not required on the Florida KidCare application, nor is it ever asked.

There are four programs in Florida KidCare: Medicaid, Healthy Kids, Medikids, and Children's Medical Services. Services include: doctors' visits, check-ups and shots, prescriptions, mental health, hospital and surgery, vision and hearing, dental, and emergencies. Parents may also apply online at http://www.healthykids.org and click "Apply Online Now." For more assistance, call Florida KidCare 1-888-540-5437.

Title I

Title I is a federal grant that provides supplemental funding to schools with high percentages of economically disadvantaged students to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards and obtain a high-quality education. Title I funds are used to provide:
- Smaller classes or special instructional services;
- Additional teachers and aides;
- Opportunities for additional professional development for school staff;
- Extra time for teaching students the skills they need;

- A variety of supplementary teaching methods; and
- Additional teaching materials and technology which supplement regular instruction.

To find out if your child's school offers Title I funded services, please visit: title1.dadeschools.net/

Project UP-START

Project UP-START, the Homeless Education Program for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, has been serving families and students living in transition since 1992. Project UP-START adheres to the Stewart B. McKinney-Bruce Vento Homeless Assistance Act by supporting students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and are living in the following categories:
- Emergency homeless shelters or transitional housing;
- Shared housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship ("doubled-up");
- In public places, cars, parks, substandard housing, or campgrounds; and
- In motels or hotels due to economic hardship.

Parents of students and Unaccompanied Youth who are experiencing unstable housing, are encouraged complete the Children and Youth in Transition Program, Project UP-START Student Eligibility Questionnaire (FM-7378) and submit it to their designated UP-START school liaison. Upon receipt of the completed form, students will be enrolled in the Project UP-START Program and will qualify for the following services:
- Immediate school enrollment;
- Transportation requests to the school-of-origin;
- After-school tutoring at selected shelters sites;
- Immediate free lunch;
- Homeless awareness and sensitivity activities year-round; and
- Case management/referrals for families to access community partners' services.

Above and beyond these federal mandates, Project UP-START provides families and students living in transition with year-round referrals to The Shop, operated by the Office of Community Engagement and supported by the South Florida Youth Foundation and the Foundation for New Education Initiatives. Throughout the school year; and especially during back-to-school, the holidays and prom season, families and students referred to The Shop are provided with the opportunity to visit The Shop and select backpacks, school supplies, toiletries, non-perishable food products, clothing, shoes and more.

For more information, please contact Debra Albo-Steiger, Director of Community Outreach at 305-995-1729 or visit the Project UP-START webpage at: projectupstart.dadeschools.net/.

Lifeline Assistance Telephone Program in Florida

Lifeline Assistance Communication between parents and school personnel is vital to a student's success. However, for some parents keeping in touch via telephone is impossible because they can't afford the service. Fortunately, the Lifeline Assistance program is designed to ensure that all residents of Florida have access to telephone service and connections in their homes.

Lifeline, which is part of the federal Universal Service Program, is designed for low-income households to obtain a $9.25 credit on their monthly phone and/or broadband bills. Enrollment is easy for eligible applicants. Parents qualify if their children are enrolled in the National School Lunch program's free lunch program. They may also qualify based on a public benefit program or income eligibility.

Lifeline brochures and application forms are available in English, Spanish and Creole on the Florida Public Service Commission's (PSC) homepage: http://www.floridapsc.com/consumerassistance/lifelineAssistance.

For more information, applicants may call their local telephone companies, the Office of Public Counsel at 1-800-540-7039 or PSC at 1-800-342-3552.

Internet Access Assistance

Xfinity is taking a number of steps to support our community and to ensure you remain connected to important communication services. To find out more click https://www.xfinity.com/prepare.

For those who cannot afford Internet access, Xfinity WIFI hotspots across the county have been opened for anyone who needs WIFI. They are free for all, including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the "xfinitywifi" network name in the list of available hotspots, and then launch a browser. A map of available Xfinity hotspots is available at https://wifi.xfinity.com/.

Comcast's Internet Essentials is free to new customers. Through the program, new customers will receive 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for $9.95/month. Additionally, for all new and existing Internet Essentials customers, the speed of the program's Internet service was increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. That increase will go into effect for no additional fee and it will become the new base speed for the program going forward. For more information, click https://corporate.comcast.com/press/releases/internet-essentials-low-income-broadband-coronavirus-pandemic.

AT&T offers internet access for qualifying limited-income households at $10 a month through their Access from AT&T program. They are also offering new Access from AT&T customers two months of free service. To learn more, click https://digitalyou.att.com/low-cost-internet/.

Diploma Pathways

Miami-Dade County Public Schools students have many choices. One of them is which diploma to pursue based on their own talents and needs. Students can plan their academic trajectory, preparing them for college and career success. Diploma designations include: Superintendent's Diploma of Distinction, Scholar designation, Merit designation, Seal of Biliteracy and IB, AICE, AP Capstone Diplomas. The District encourages students to become informed as they prepare to enter senior high school.

For additional information, visit diplomapathways.dadeschools.net/.

Graduation Requirements

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) students entering 9th grade may choose from one of four state-approved options to earn a standard diploma.
- 24-credit program*
- 18-credit, Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- 18-credit, Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathway
- An International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum
- An Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum

*Additionally, there are two options for students with disabilities, which may be completed within the 24-credit program. For additional information on exceptional student education programs, visit the Florida Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services web page at http://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu.

- All diploma options require students to earn a passing score on the Grade 10 English Language Arts Florida Standards Assessment or either the College Board SAT or the ACT.
- Students must also earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) assessment or receive a comparative score either on the College Board SAT or the ACT.
- Students are required to complete _at least one_ _online_ senior high school course in order to graduate.

Students should also meet with their school counselor to ensure that they have accurate information about the required courses and tests for graduation, as well as other important information that students need during high school and as they make their post-secondary plan.

For more detailed information regarding the requirements for different diplomas, click on the link below for the Florida Department of Education's Academic Advisement site: www.fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements. If you need more specific information, please contact your child's school counselor and/or administrators. Working together, parents and M-DCPS school personnel can truly make a difference for our students.

Comprehensive Student Services Program Meets Students' Needs Support Services for Students and Families

The Division of Student Services implements the Comprehensive Student Services Program, serving students from Pre-K to adult. Through collaboration efforts with community agencies, students' academic, personal/social and career development needs are addressed through a team-based approach. An integrated team of uniquely trained student services professionals deliver direct services to students. These services focus on the elimination of social and emotional barriers that inhibit students' academic success and prepare students to be college and career ready.

School counselors are vital members of the education team. The connections and collaboration made between school counselors, stakeholders and other agencies are the key to closing gaps that students may face and to help them become successful adults. Established partnerships with healthcare community organizations also expand the bandwidth of related support available for students and families.

The Comprehensive Student Services Program supports student achievement through effective prevention, intervention and crisis response services. For more information, please contact Martha Z. Harris, Administrative Director, Division of Student Services, at 305-995-7338.

Bullying Prevention

Allegations of bullying/harassment are taken seriously by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. When concerned about bullying or harassment behaviors, contact your child's teacher immediately. You can verbally report your concerns and/or fill out the Bullying and Harassment Reporting Form, which can be found at the following website: http://forms.dadeschools.net/webpdf/7229.pdf.

If the situation is not resolved successfully, you may ask your child's counselor to intervene. If the problem should continue to persist, notify the school's principal. You may also contact the Bullying/Harassment Helpline, staffed by the Division of Student Services staff at the District office. They can be reached at 305-995-CARE (2273). The Helpline is staffed from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Information may be provided anonymously. All messages will be returned promptly. Additional information regarding bullying and harassment can be found at the following link: studentservices.dadeschools.net/bullying/.

College Assistance Program

The College Assistance Program (CAP), is a post-secondary advisory program in all senior high schools in Miami-Dade County. The specialized focus of the program enables CAP advisors to serve students more effectively because of their specific expertise in this field. CAP advisors communicate effectively on behalf of students as a result of their special relationships with college representatives as well as local, state and national organizations.

CAP advisors serve as transition coaches to assist students in postsecondary planning. They host college forums and school-site college fairs, sponsor college visits, provide assistance with financial aid, college applications, college selection, academic advisement, test preparation, scholarship information, college essays, and support students and their families during all phases of the postsecondary planning process.
The College Assistance Program provides high schools with collaborative resources which promote a college-going culture and ensure that every student has an attainable postsecondary plan.

During the upcoming school year, the CAP program is launching a new comprehensive electronic college planning tool, Scoir. This tool is accessible to all high school students and their parents. Scoir allows students to complete college searches, take virtual college tours, participate in career planning surveys, and receive important communication from their counselor and college advisor. Parents are also able to create a Scoir account and access important information about their child's college and career planning choices.
CAP works in collaboration with College Assistance Program, Inc. (CAP, Inc.), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, to award thousands of dollars to college-bound students. CAP, Inc. grants are "last dollar" grants that meet the financial gap of students transitioning into postsecondary education.

For more information, students should contact their school's Student Services Department or call the Division of Student Services, at 305-995-7338.

National College Fair

South Florida students and parents can meet representatives from more than 200 colleges and universities at the 2021 Miami National College Fair, Sunday February 21, 2021. Students, parents and others are invited to the **free** fair. The event allows students and parents to meet with more than 200 college representatives and have their questions answered. Information sessions on financial aid, college planning, admission and testing requirements will also be offered in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole. A counseling center will be staffed to provide attendees information about college preparation, admissions and scholarships.

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and Miami-Dade

County Public Schools are sponsors of the event. School Board Chair Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman is co-chair of the National College Fair's local committee. Every year NACAC sponsors fairs in cities across the country, which attract more than 650,000 students and parents. For more information, contact Martha Z. Harris, Administrative Director, at 305-995-7338 or visit www.nacacnet.org.

Region Centers

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is divided into three regions. Each region consists of a region superintendent and staff responsible for providing support and assistance to parents and students. Parents' questions or issues regarding their child's school that are not resolved at the school level may be addressed to a Region Center director. If the parents are not satisfied with the outcome, they may appeal the decision to the Region Center superintendent. Questions relating to boundaries, attendance, and transfer policies can be answered at the Region Center. Addresses and telephone numbers of these offices are:

NORTH REGION CENTER	CENTRAL REGION CENTER	SOUTH REGION CENTER
http://northregion.dadeschools.net	http://centralregion.dadeschools.net	http://southregionoffice.dadeschools.net
733 East 57th Street Hialeah, FL 33013 305-572-2800	5005 N.W. 112nd Avenue Doral, FL 33178 305-499-5050	18180 S.W. 122nd Avenue Miami, FL 33177 305-252-3041
Region Superintendent: Dr. Verena Cabrera	**Region Superintendent:** Dr. Michael A. Lewis	**Region Superintendent:** Ms. Barbara A. Mendizábal

Anti-Discrimination Policy

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. M-DCPS does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that it operates as required by Title IX. M-DCPS also does not discriminate on the basis of sex in admissions or employment.

Age Discrimination Act of 1975 - prohibits discrimination based on age in programs or activities.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40 years old.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for certain family and medical reasons.

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) - prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information.

Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2002 – No public school shall deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity for groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities before or after school hours, or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with Boy Scouts of America or any other youth or community group listed in Title 36 (as a patriotic society).

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.

In Addition:
School Board Policies 1362, 3362, 4362, and 5517 - Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, sex/gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, citizenship status, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.

Revised 07/2020