



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **303-2011**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: November 28, 2011

SUBJECT: Committee for Quality Education Motions

The Committee for Quality Education would like you to be aware of the attached motions regarding 2012 Legislative Priorities, which was approved at their October 25, 2011 committee meeting.

JMG/KB/lr

Attachment

c: Kathie Brooks, OBPI Director
Leslie Rosenfeld, QEC Liaison

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City of Miami Beach
Committee for Quality Education

Meeting of: October 25, 2011

Members Present: Keren Bajaroff, Karen Rivo, Sofia Emuriel, Kay Coulture, Pat Kaine, Ivette Borello, Beverly Heller, Becky Cohen, Dakshesh Bhatt, Nizia Motola, Waldy Blanco and Maria Hosu

Members Absent: Sheila Duffy-Lehrman, Tiffany Heckler, and Heidi Tandy

Motion Made By: Pat Kaine

Motion Second By: Beverly Heller

Motion Text with explanation:

1- Continue to allow co-enrollment as a strategy for high school students who need academic credit recovery or to improve their cumulative average for graduation purposes. In addition, provide greater flexibility and opportunities for academic credit recovery during the school day (ie. facilitators, programming).

- The rationale for the italicized addition to the approved District 2012 Legislative Priority written above is to provide students with the option of taking the credit recovery courses as an elective during the school day.
- This would also allow for more access to courses and will hopefully improve the graduation rate.

2- Retain advanced academic (IB and AP) monetary incentives to reward teacher and school achievements to align with the current merit pay formula for teachers and schools for FCAT and end of course exam achievements.

- Another approved District 2012 Legislative Priority is to preserve funding for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs.
- The City of Miami Beach has invested significant resources to implement the IB curriculum in all of its schools, including the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Miami Beach Senior High.
- The rationale is to ensure the retention and attraction of highly qualified teachers for both the IB Program and the AP curriculum at Miami Beach Senior High who are already facing higher class sizes due to the elimination of class size caps for IB, AP and dual enrollment courses.

3- Update the requirements for school improvement plans to mirror the data points of the school grade such as graduation rate, advanced academics (IB and AP) and college readiness (SAT and ACT).

- Currently the school improvement plan requirements for high schools do not include the tracking of graduation rates, advanced academics and college readiness. This criteria amounts to half of the school grade for high schools.
- The rationale is to align the state requirements to develop and implement school improved plans with the actual data points that are used to measure performance.
- This will enable the City of Miami Beach to more adequately track and improve advanced academic results, including the IB program.

The QEC urges for the Mayor to include the above in the 2012 Legislative Priorities.

Motion Passage: Votes 12-0