

BUDGET FACTS

- Since 2007-08 school year, M-DCPS' total budget has shrunk from \$6.3 billion to \$4.3 billion – a \$2 billion decrease.
- The District has been forced to make cuts throughout its entire operations and has primarily avoided making cuts to the classroom.
- Not one full-time teacher has been laid-off – a stark contrast to other major urban school districts across the country.
- In total, District administrative and support services have been cut by over 40 percent.
- Our general fund reserves increased from \$5M to over \$130M – our strongest financial position in over a decade, a major factor in a recent upgrade in our credit rating outlook.
- Although reserves are listed at \$130 million, actual reserves are just over \$75 million, which is just above the three percent level required by the state.
- Special reserves of \$14 million were set aside for healthcare costs that increased for the first half of calendar year 2011.
- Additionally, \$12 million was set aside because the state changed the way school districts are required to budget.
- Another \$29.4 million was set aside for program and personnel protection in light of potentially lower tax revenues and mid-year cuts to education from the state.
- District revenues have dropped not only due to plummeting property values, but also due to a Florida education funding formula that does not adequately take into account the differences between South Florida and the rest of the state.

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- Prior to 2003-04, M-DCPS received significantly more per child for public K-12 education than the statewide average.
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools now ranks among the bottom ten school districts statewide in terms of money received from the state per student, despite Miami-Dade County taxpayers ranking among the top in terms of money contributed per student.
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools performance grades have increased dramatically, students are outperforming in reading and mathematics compared to their counterparts in other urban areas across the country as evidenced by our recent NAEP scores.
- M-DCPS graduation rates are at their highest since the state began using modern methods to track these levels.
- Florida citizens have made it clear that it is important to keep our classes small.
- The Constitution calls for the State to fund the cost of class size mandate and no penalty to be levied on districts that fall short.
- The Florida Legislature has fallen short of its responsibility in funding the full cost of compliance and has instituted a heavy financial penalty on districts.
- This year, M-DCPS has worked hard to be more than 99 percent compliant with the class size minimums, but the point must be made to the state that placing the financial burden on school districts is unconstitutional and must be dealt with in Tallahassee.

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- Over the past two-and-a-half years, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has righted its financial ship and become a model of management efficiency among governmental organizations nationwide.
- Our focus on academics has been unwavering and our students are achieving at unprecedented levels.
- We continue providing a world-class education for every student in our county.
- Our elected representatives in Tallahassee need to know that we, as a community, will not tolerate budget deficits to be balanced at the expense of our students.