

**MEMORANDUM**

**May 4, 2011**

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools *AMC*

**SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – BUDGET SETTLED**

The Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives reached an agreement on the state's budget yesterday and a copy of the budget was provided to the members of the Florida Legislature last night at 10:16 p.m., ensuring that the 2011 Legislative Session will conclude as scheduled on Friday, May 6, 2011.

The State's General Appropriations Act, SB 2000, is approximately \$70 billion. Specifically related to Education PreK-12, funding for the Florida Education Finance Program was reduced by approximately \$1.3 billion or 7.53 percent. The reduction on a per unweighted full-time equivalent is approximately \$542.03 or 7.96 percent. The reduction is due mainly to the sunseting of the federal stimulus monies of approximately \$872 million and the depressed property values statewide estimated to decrease by \$287 million. The Base Student Allocation is reduced by \$144.54 per student to \$3,479.22, taking that allocation back to the level of the 2001-2002 school year – a full decade ago. The reductions to school districts are mitigated by changes made to the Florida Retirement System (FRS) with savings estimated to be \$859 million resulting from lower required District contribution to the FRS.

Specifically, as it relates to Miami-Dade, the estimated gross funding reduction is approximately \$185.7 million or 7.89 percent before any retirement expenditure savings. The District's per student reduction is \$556.04 or 8.16 percent. Our share of the retirement savings is approximately \$112 million which partially mitigates the District's reduction.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305-995-1497.

AMC:ibd  
M1138

cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert  
Ms. Darla March