


MEMORANDUM

April 27, 2011

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

FROM: Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – BUDGET

After several weeks with no sign of negotiations, House and Senate negotiators reached an agreement on allocations for the various sections of the state budget allowing for conference. Conference committees were announced late Tuesday, April 26, 2011, and are authorized to begin to meet commencing Wednesday, April 27, 2011, through Friday, April 29, 2011, at which point any remaining conference issues will be bumped to the budget chairs.

Senate conferees include: Senators Alexander, Chair; Negron, Vice-Chair; Gaetz, Gardiner, Rich Siplin, and Thrasher as at-large. House conferees include Representative Grimsley, Chair, with at-large members including Representatives Aubuchon, Chestnut, Hukill, Kreegel, Legg, Lopez-Cantera, McKeel, Proctor, Rouson, Sands, Saunders, Schenck, Snyder, and Weatherford.

Related to Education PreK-12, the Senate conferees include Senators Simmons, Bullard, Detert, Dockery, Montford, and Wise. House conferees, lead by Representative Coley, Chair, include Representatives Adkins, Bileca, Fresen, Kiar, Plakon, Smith, and Stargel.

Dealing with the Higher Education Appropriations, and specifically with the co-enrollment issue, are Senate conferees Senator Lynn, Chair, and Senators Altman, Braynon, Oelrich, and Siplin. The House counterparts include Representative O'Toole, Chair, and Representatives Ahern, Brodeur, Ford, Gonzalez, Jones, Reed, Trujillo, and Williams.

Another key issue outstanding in the budgetary process is pension reform. Leading that discussion in conference are Senators Ring and Benaquisto along with Representative Workman from the House. The impending reductions to local school districts is contingent on how much employees will be required to contribute towards their respective retirement benefits.

Now that the allocations have been provided to each of the sections of the budget, we anticipate that the conference, specifically related to education K-12, should be resolved rather quickly. As additional information becomes available, details will be provided.

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

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