

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: DRIVERS EDUCATION**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

No one could argue the importance of teens learning how to drive. To best understand good driving skills, students should be introduced to the principles of good driving through driver education programming including behind-the-wheel training.

In 2002, the Florida Legislature created the Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act (Florida Statute 318.1215), which authorized county commissioners to adopt a local option fee to be collected on all civil traffic fines. These funds from the fine were to be administered by the counties to fund driver education programs in public and non-public schools. The ordinance shall provide for the board of county commissioners to administer the funds, which shall be used for enhancement, and not replacement, of driver education program funds. The funds shall be used for direct educational expenses and shall not be used for administration. Each driver education program receiving funds pursuant to this section shall require that a minimum of 30 percent of a student's time in the program be behind-the-wheel training. Since then, there has been other legislation that contributes to funding driver's education programming.

For example, in 2014, there was an interlocal agreement where \$3,170,463 was provided for Drivers Education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). Funding was granted to cover all costs associated with providing classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction to students at 37 public high schools throughout the county.

Currently, the district does not have any research tracking students taking drivers education and some schools have curriculum but are without cars to teach their students. This is an appropriate time to conduct an overall review of driver's education in M-DCPS.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY  
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to:

1. Review and evaluate the drivers education program within M-DCPS including the condition of the vehicles used for this program and whether car purchases and/or leases are necessary;
2. Determine if the schools have certified drivers education teachers;
3. Verify whether all external funds the district receives for drivers education is compliant with all requirements; and
4. Provide a response by the March 2019 School Board meeting.