

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO EXPLORE THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A FIRE SCIENCE ACADEMY PROGRAM IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) continues to develop and implement outstanding, innovative programs for our students. The Board and the Superintendent are endlessly engaged in very positive discussions about student achievement and the exceptional gains this school district has attained are more than well documented. Many of these innovative programs are launched through the Millennial Access Platforms (MAPs). It is a visionary effort to self-reflect, research, analyze, reach out to stakeholders, build partnerships, and develop and implement 21<sup>st</sup> century programs for our students and the community we serve.

It is with this visionary concept in mind that this agenda item seeks to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to explore the development and implementation of a Fire Science Academy Program in Miami-Dade County Public Schools during the 2019-2020 school year.

Working collaboratively and cooperatively with local fire departments and with colleges and/or universities, this program could launch an innovative academy for high school juniors and seniors in preparation for firefighter competencies and ultimately certification. This rigorous and robust program could allow students to gain experience and demonstrate proficiency in basic firefighting and rescue techniques and provide the necessary credentials to eventually be employed with local fire departments.

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

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, authorize the Superintendent of Schools to explore the development and implementation of a Fire Science Academy Program in Miami-Dade County Public Schools during the 2019-2020 school year and report back to the Board by April 17, 2019.