

## Administrative Operations

### TREES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### GOALS

It is the desire of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida to preserve and maintain trees as an element of a good landscaping plan.

#### LANDSCAPE PLANNING

Trees should receive priority consideration in the development and phased installation of school landscapes.

Trees already existing on Board-owned site or sites considered for purchase should be preserved when in the best interest of the Board.

#### DESIGN CRITERIA

Landscape master plan criteria should be developed and incorporated into the **Design Criteria and Standards, Miami-Dade County Public Schools**.

Additional master landscape planning criteria should provide guidelines for locating landscape materials in order to reduce energy consumption, as well as for locating large trees to provide shade in areas likely to be used by students.

The M-DCPS **Design Criteria and Standards** should include a comprehensive list of trees (and installation procedures) which are approved for installation on existing school properties, without the need for district-level review or approval.

Should a school site principal or any administrator responsible for a M-DCPS facility determine a need to move or remove a tree, approval must first be obtained from the Office of Facilities Operations. Justification for the action must be included with the request. This rule shall apply to all trees except for those on the list of trees that are not to be included as a part of the landscape on a M-DCPS site.

In determining trees for placement on the list, special attention should be given to trees which have low-water and maintenance requirements, and which are highly disease resistant.

The district **Design Criteria and Standards** will include a list of those trees which should never be included in a school landscape, and which may be removed from school properties without the need for review or approval beyond the school site.

## **SCHOOL-SITE INVOLVEMENT**

As appropriate for each grade level, school-based projects should be developed and implemented. In developing school plans special attention should be paid to the specialized types of landscapes which can also serve as effective learning laboratories for students.

As desired by the recipient, schools should also consider planting a tree(s) in honor of community members, or as an award to students and staff, in lieu of awards and plaques.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2); 230.23(17) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.23(9); 581.185 F.S.

**History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

New: 11-21-90

Amended: 5-25-94; 12-14-94; 12-9-98