

Instruction -- Elementary and Secondary**MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, serving a community reflecting many varied cultures and languages, is committed to equity in education for all students, and to providing a learning environment that is reflective of the cultures, traditions, customs, and historic legacies that comprise the District's population. Such a learning environment will enable students and staff to acquire a broader knowledge base while developing appreciation and respect for individual similarities and differences, which will prepare them to function effectively in Miami-Dade's culturally and linguistically diverse society, as well as in the state, the nation, and the world.

The Board recognizes that multicultural education must not only be a part of the curriculum, but must become a driving force in the restructuring of the school culture and organization. The Board also acknowledges that it is the responsibility of school staff, in conjunction with district personnel, to provide the materials and assistance necessary to ensure that instruction in all disciplines is accurate, comprehensive, nonbiased, and inclusive of a variety of perspectives. To be effective, multicultural education must go beyond the observance of holidays, tributes to famous people, fairs, and festivals. It must be appropriate to the ability, maturity, and interests of students; must take into account different learning styles and educational levels; and must develop affective as well as cognitive skills.

The following are major goals formulated to carry out the Board's commitment to multicultural programs:

Goal 1

To ensure that the curriculum is structured to enable students to view concepts, issues, events, and themes from the perspective of diverse ethnic, national origin, and cultural groups.

To this end, the Superintendent of Schools will establish objectives to:

- Promote cognitive and affective programs in multicultural education for the purpose of enhancing ethnic, racial, gender, language, and religious acceptance and understanding among students, staff, parents, and community.
- Implement a process for the inclusion of a multicultural perspective in standard curriculum development for all areas.
- Promote instructional materials that meet the District's multicultural education guidelines.
- Review and recommend changes in the procedures and guidelines for instructional materials selection to promote gender and racial equity.

- Require administrators and teachers to provide leadership, support, and modeling in order to ensure that the school culture and organization reflect the needs of students from multicultural, multiracial, multiethnic, multilingual, and gender groups.
- Provide programs that further advance cross cultural communications, awareness, and understanding.

Goal 2

To provide training designed to assist administrators, teachers, and support staff in the development of competencies that promote multicultural understanding.

To this end, the Superintendent of Schools shall:

- Incorporate multicultural education into training programs at the Miami-Dade-Monroe Teacher Education Center, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Management Academy, and M-DCPS Department of Support Personnel Training.
- Encourage multicultural education training programs at local colleges and universities.

Goal 3

To provide a learning environment in which multicultural education will be intrinsic and multiethnic understanding will flourish.

To this end, the Superintendent shall:

- Seek support and resources from established international, national and local community groups, organizations, institutions, agencies, corporations, and foundations to assist in promoting multicultural education programs and services.
- Involve parents and community representatives in improving multicultural relations within the school community.

It is the professional responsibility of administrators and other staff at every level to assist in the achievement of the stated goals.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.03(2); 233.061 F.S.

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

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