


## MEMORANDUM

June 18, 2019

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

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: STAFF FOLLOW-UP: SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2019, AGENDA ITEM H-11, EARLY BIRD MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMMING**

At the School Board meeting of March 13, 2019, the Board approved Agenda Item H-11, proffered by School Board Vice Chair Dr. Martin Karp and co-sponsored by School Board Members Ms. Susie V. Castillo and Ms. Mari Tere Rojas. This item directed the Superintendent to: 1) explore offering and promoting physical activity options for students who arrive early to middle school, and any other grade configurations as determined appropriate and necessary, early before the bell rings; and 2) provide a response by the June 2019 School Board meeting.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) prides itself on providing a wide range of programming designed to meet students' needs and interests beyond the regular school day. To facilitate the provision of various program options, the District has longstanding partnerships with several before- and after-school care providers. During the 2018-2019 academic year, there were 224 low-cost before- and after-school care programs that served both elementary and K-8 center students, 62 after-school enrichment programs that provided tutoring for middle school students, and 19 before-school care programs in our K-8 centers and middle schools. Before- and after-school care programs provide planned activities, which may include homework assistance and tutoring, indoor and outdoor games, arts and crafts, snack time, music, ceramics, chess, drama, and various other recreational activities. As a matter of practice, District staff recommends that the programs offered before and after school encompass physical activity, where appropriate.

As a follow-up to this item, District staff surveyed all 49 traditional middle schools and 53 K-8 Centers regarding before-school programming. The information gathered through this survey provided staff with valuable information on the specific activities currently offered prior to the start of instructional time. Among the findings are:

- 25% of the schools currently have a before-school program.
- 71% of the programs offered are coordinated by individual school sites.
- The most common start and end times for these activities were 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (dependent on school configuration).
- The types of programs include tutoring, course recovery, guitar, band, dance, iReady, robotics, and physical activity through intramural sports.

Staff also reviewed survey data collected from middle school students as part of Middle School Redesign. In an effort to increase student choice and voice, the Middle School Redesign initiative asked all students from the 49 traditional middle schools to participate

in an interest survey. The intent of this survey was to inform schools regarding their elective offerings. The results from this survey may also be used to inform program offerings for students through clubs and activities offered before and after school.

In addition, District staff considered the associated cost of implementing supervised activities prior to the start of the school day, which would require the compensation of teachers on an hourly basis. While the amount may vary, the average salary of hourly instructional personnel is roughly \$25 an hour. Assuming the before-school program would be offered for two hours daily, the estimated cost of running an instructional before-school program would be approximately \$50 dollars a day, or \$250 per week, per instructor. Offering before-school programming to 100 students at each school would require four instructional staff members to ensure appropriate supervision at a ratio of 25:1. For 180 instructional days, the annual cost for one instructional staff member to provide before-school programming for 25 students would be approximately \$9,000. The annual cost for all traditional middle schools and K-8 centers to implement this type of programming for 100 students would be \$3.6 million. Additional funding would be required to provide for supplies and other materials to be utilized during the before-school programming. District staff is currently exploring potential funding opportunities for before-school programming by leveraging our existing partnerships.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mrs. Valtena G. Brown, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Operating Officer, School Operations, at 305 995-2938.

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cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
School Board Agenda Office