

Dr. Martin Karp, Member

**SUBJECT:            THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
EVALUATES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GIFTED  
PROGRAMS AND ADDRESSES THE SHORTAGE OF  
ENDORSED AND CERTIFIED TEACHERS**

**COMMITTEE:        INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Gifted education is provided in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools to offer a differentiated curriculum for students who would benefit from goals and objectives that emphasize developing critical and creative thinking skills specifically created for divergent thinkers. Gifted students may underachieve, perform below expectations, and lose interest in school because they are not offered programs and services that are appropriate and challenging.

Greater emphasis in many programs is placed on preparing students for the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) with less emphasis placed on developing curricula that provide students with in-depth units of study based on a thematic approach to learning. More attention is given to improving basic skills, and gifted classes in elementary and secondary school programs are taught as advanced or honor courses rather than using the differentiated curriculum appropriate for gifted students.

Students best receive educational services from trained and certified teachers. In gifted programs, 143 teachers throughout the district are currently teaching without gifted endorsement. In addition, there is a need to increase the number of teachers with a gifted endorsement who lack English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) certification to qualify for teaching Limited English Proficient (LEP) students.

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

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

1. authorize an evaluation of the implementation of gifted education K-12 programs;
2. evaluate curriculum for gifted programs to ensure a differentiated curriculum unique to this program; and
3. develop a plan to ensure that teachers of the gifted complete the required courses for endorsement in gifted education; and
4. develop a plan to encourage teachers of the gifted to obtain ESOL certification.