

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice-Chair

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Susie V. Castillo
Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman
Ms. Lubby Navarro
Dr. Marta Pérez
Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas

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SUBJECT: DRIVERS EDUCATION

COMMITTEE: ACADEMIC, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: SAFE, HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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No one could argue the importance of teens learning how to drive especially today when teenagers face more distractions such as texting. At the September 5, 2018 School Board meeting, School Board Chair Perla Tabares Hantman introduced item H-9 which encouraged year-round safe driving practices. To best understand good driving skills, students should be introduced to the principles of good driving through driver education programming including behind-the-wheel training.

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In 2002, the Florida Legislature created the Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act (Florida Statute 318.1215), which authorized county commissioners to adopt a local option fee to be collected on all civil traffic fines. These funds from the fine were to be administered by the counties to fund driver education programs in public and non-public schools. The ordinance shall provide for the board of county commissioners to administer the funds, which shall be used for enhancement, and not replacement, of driver education program funds. The funds shall be used for direct educational expenses and shall not be used for administration. Each driver education program receiving funds pursuant to this section shall require that a minimum of 30 percent of a student's time in the program be behind-the-wheel training. The funds collected on all civil traffic fines related to the Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act are placed by the County in the Driver Education Safety Trust Fund.

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County commissioners reimburse Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) via an interlocal agreement for the expenditures incurred related to its Drivers Education program. This interlocal agreement is the vehicle used by the County to disburse funds collected in the Driver Education Safety Trust Fund as a result of the Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act. The County can only be reimbursed expenditures to the extent that there are funds in the trust fund. In 2014, MDCPS was reimbursed for the total costs incurred by its Drivers Education program during fiscal year 2012-2013 (i.e. \$3,170,463). Funding was granted to cover all costs associated with providing classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction to students at 37 public high schools throughout the County.

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**Revised
H-12**

Currently, some schools have curriculum but are without cars to teach their students. This is }
an appropriate time to conduct an overall review of driver's education in M-DCPS.

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

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

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

1. Review and evaluate the drivers education program within M-DCPS including the condition of the vehicles used for this program and whether car purchases and/or leases are necessary;
2. Determine if the schools have certified drivers education teachers;
3. Verify whether all external funds the district receives for drivers education is compliant with all requirements; and
4. Provide a response by the March 2019 School Board meeting.