


MEMORANDUM

July 24, 2018

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 APRIL 25, 2018, AGENDA ITEM H-4, SEA LEVEL RISE, ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING, AND CONSTRUCTION DESIGN

At the School Board meeting of April 25, 2018, the Board approved Agenda Item H-4, proffered by School Board Vice Chair Dr. Martin Karp. This item directed the Superintendent to 1) consider new academic programs as it pertains to flooding, 2) review construction designs to accommodate for the projected changes to Florida's landscape, and 3) provide a response on or before the July 2018 School Board meeting.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools prides itself on offering a multitude of innovative programs designed to provide students with the foundational academic skills needed to address critical issues affecting modern society, including the potential for sea level rise. Understanding that this phenomenon has direct implications in multiple fields, such as Architecture, Construction, Engineering, and Environmental Science, the topic of sea level rise is integrated into the curriculum for magnet/choice course offerings in the aforementioned areas at secondary schools within the District. Among these are: BioTECH @ Richmond Heights 9-12, Coral Reef Senior High School, Cutler Bay Senior High School (Cutler Bay Ocean Academy of Science and Technology – COAST), Design and Architecture Senior High School (DASH), Maritime and Science Technology (MAST) Academy, MAST @ FIU Biscayne Bay Campus, Miami Coral Park Senior High School, and TERRA Environmental Research Institute.

Staff in the Office of School Facilities will continue to abide by any and all applicable building elevation requirements, specifically as it relates to new school construction projects. Additionally, the District's Risk and Benefits Management Office has commissioned a risk exposure analysis focusing on the impact of sea level rise on the physical plant. Once completed, the analysis will serve to inform future facilities planning and construction.

If you have any questions regarding academic programming related to sea level rise, please contact Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451. For questions related to the District's construction designs, please contact Mr. Jaime G. Torrens, Chief Facilities Officer, Office of School Facilities, at 305 995-1607.

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cc: School Board Attorney
Superintendent's Cabinet