

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND PARENT STRATEGIES  
FOR ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION**

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the percentage of children in the United States who have been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is 9.5 percent. Boys are diagnosed two to three times as often as girls.

In school, untreated ADHD contributes to more behavior problems, lower success in school and higher dropout rates. Unfortunately, the side effects of unmanaged children's ADHD turn into severe problems for adults including higher rates of depression and obesity, incarceration and increased issues with relationships and employment. } Revised

Professor Dr. Joseph Biederman at Harvard Medical School says ADHD may be the costliest medical condition in the United States. "Evaluating, diagnosing, and treating this condition may not only improve the quality of life, but may save billions of dollars every year." } Revised

While multi-faceted strategies such as behavior intervention and education training have shown to be effective, many times such strategies are ignored and medicine is solely used to address ADHD.

Research studies show that teaching ADHD management techniques for students, parents and teachers reduces behavior problems more effectively than medicine and eliminates the need for some children to be medicated. Even for those children who require medicine, studies show that they experience fewer behavior problems when receiving the proper classroom management techniques combined with the medicine.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) should thoroughly address ADHD in the school system including proper training, treatment and strategies to provide for our students, educators, and parents. Currently, Paul Bell Middle School has been hosting Florida International University's Summer Treatment Program for ADHD under the direction of Dr. William E. Pelham, Jr.. The program emphasizes many areas including teaching students' behavior and attention development strategies, while at the same time providing parents with coping and strategy methods to retain the gains their children make during the summer program. After completion 99 percent of the parents recommend the program, and behavior and social issues with these children dramatically improved. } Added

**Revised  
H-11**

M-DCPS has an opportunity to explore partnerships and research grants to provide the school system with additional resources to address ADHD. The District should also consider whether specialty programs with parental choice options can benefit M-DCPS and children with ADHD.

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

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

1. Review current services offered for students with ADHD including classroom management techniques and parent education programs; and,
2. Explore whether specialty programs with parental choice options in select schools can improve services for students with ADHD in M-DCPS; and,
3. Provide a response by the November 19, 2014 School Board meeting.

## MEMORANDUM

September 23, 2014

**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: BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 6, 2014, AGENDA ITEM H-11, CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND PARENT STRATEGIES FOR ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER**

At the School Board Meeting of August 6, 2014, the Board approved Agenda Item H-11, proffered by School Board Member Dr. Martin Karp. Agenda Item H-11 authorized the Superintendent to review current services, including classroom techniques and parent education programs, offered for students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and explore whether a specialty program in a school can improve services for students with ADHD in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).

In Miami-Dade County, approximately 500 students have been medically diagnosed with ADHD, requiring a 504 Accommodation Plan, or have been declared eligible for special needs services through an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Services and support for students with ADHD are customized for the individual needs of the student based on the 504 Plan or IEP. Through the Florida International University (FIU), ACCESS Partnership, M-DCPS has collaborated with the Center for Children and Families on several specialized programs and services offered to students and families.

As a result of this Board Item, and in collaboration with FIU's Center for Children and Families, the following services for students diagnosed with ADHD and their families will be expanded:

- Professional development targeting both general education and special education classroom teachers will be provided during the 2014-2015 school year. Demonstration classrooms and podcasts depicting evidence-based classroom strategies will supplement the planned formal professional development workshops;
- Professional development for counseling professionals, including school psychologists, counselors, and school social workers, will target diagnostics, treatment options, and counseling strategies for students with ADHD;
- A series of parent education workshops that focus on ADHD and the preparation of a cadre of parent peer "trainers" who are knowledgeable about results-based parenting strategies and techniques are planned for 2015; and
- A pilot specialty program will be launched in 2015-2016 creating a classroom environment that integrates evidence-based behavioral and organizational strategies effective with students diagnosed with ADHD. The program will serve

as a research and development site for classroom modeling, observation, and research on specific strategies.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. David K. Moore, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Academic Support at 305 995-1405, or Ms. Ava Goldman, Administrative Director, Exceptional Student Education at 305 995-2037.

AMC:Imm  
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cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet  
Superintendent's Senior Staff  
Ms. Ava Goldman