

Dr. Martin Karp, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO TERRORISM

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida (M-DCPS) has taken many precautions to ensure the safety of our students and employees. As a nation fighting an ongoing war on terrorism, it is prudent to review and update the M-DCPS Emergency Operations Plan for preventing and responding to terrorism.

This plan should be done with experts in the field of counterterrorism. It should include updating guidelines for emergency situations related to terrorism and a way to train our employees to report suspicious activities, and to make available and advertise to our students and their parents a place to report any tips or concerns. Recently, we have learned the tremendous value of tips from many sources that can lead to capturing a terrorist or preventing terrorist acts.

Some discussions suggest that cell phone and Internet usage may be interrupted if there was a terrorist plot unfolding on American soil. Such action would be authorized to curtail terrorists' efforts to communicate with outside sources. In this scenario, the District would need to ensure that plans were in place to allow for parents to contact their children and for children to speak with their parents.

Unfortunately, schools and school buses have been targeted by terrorists in other countries such as Israel and Russia, but this item is in no way indicating any known potential threat. This item is based on Homeland Security policy that encourages being proactive and alert to prevent any future terrorist attacks. Improving preparedness and heightening awareness has led to some terrorist plots to fail.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to review and update the M-DCPS Emergency Operations Plan for preventing and responding to terrorism, which should be done with the input of experts in the field of counterterrorism.