

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: COLLABORATION ON REDUCING MANDATED TESTING

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Teachers, parents, and students often request less standardized testing and less classroom time devoted to teaching to a test. At the same time, these stakeholders emphasize the need for more creativity and interest-based learning.

The Superintendent and his staff with the Miami-Dade County School Board listened to these complaints last year, which led to the successful reduction of required tests for students and number of days allocated towards testing. Nevertheless, classroom and homework time are allocated towards answering multiple choice questions and preparing students to be successful on the many standardized tests that they will take while fewer opportunities remain where children's personalities are considered and creativity is encouraged.

Teachers recognize the way they are going to be evaluated, and cannot ignore preparing students for these tests. Further reductions in testing are only possible by addressing the number of Federal and State mandates.

The School Board is privileged to represent members of our community and can be a strong voice in the conversation of less testing for our students.

Following the submission of this agenda item, the Council of Great City Schools released "Student Testing in America's Great City Schools: An Inventory and Preliminary Analysis." In support of this report, this item requests that the Superintendent, in a collaborative manner, continues to work with Federal and State authorities to (1) review current Federal and State mandated tests, (2) determine where further reductions and flexibility of mandated tests are possible, and (3) see whether incentives can be offered for those districts that reduce testing.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to explore in a collaborative manner with Federal and State authorities for additional opportunities to reduce Federal and State mandated tests.