

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: PEDIATRICIAN, THERAPIST AND DISTRICT
COMMUNICATION**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMIC, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

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

On a daily basis, thousands of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students visit the offices of pediatricians and therapists in South Florida. Pediatricians and therapists see some students who require programs of a special nature. Often, they are privy to problems in children's environments. Yet, these professionals are unsure of how to direct the parents in terms of obtaining the appropriate services in M-DCPS in a timely manner and communicating their concerns regarding some of the students.

Providing pediatricians and therapists in our community with contact information at the school district would be helpful should they have questions or concerns for the M-DCPS student patients they serve. Improved communication can benefit students' educational experiences and help lift performance levels. Improved communication can also help parents who seek educational advice from their children's doctors and therapists.

The appropriate placement of students is critical for academic, athletic, emotional and personal success in school. This item seeks to establish a line of communications for pediatricians, therapists and district personnel to help ensure that students are receiving services that match their needs while informing district personnel of concerns doctors and therapists have identified. This item seeks to respect patient-doctor confidentiality provisions.

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

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

1. Provide pediatricians and therapists with contact information of District personnel who can assist in answering questions or making recommendations for them to share with their M-DCPS patients; and,
2. Explore hosting a summit for pediatricians and therapists to learn more about services for students and procedures in M-DCPS; and,
3. Transmit an update on the actions above by the June 22, 2016 School Board meeting.