


## MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2019

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL STAFF FOLLOW-UP: SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2017, AGENDA ITEM H-12, GIFTED EDUCATION EVALUATION**

At the School Board meeting of June 21, 2017, the Board approved Agenda Item H-12, proffered by School Board Vice Chair Dr. Martin Karp and co-sponsored by School Board Member Dr. Steve Gallon III. Agenda Item H-12 authorized the Superintendent to 1) evaluate current gifted services and the level of differentiation in the curriculum, including surveying students, parents, teachers and administrators about such services; 2) determine if a special magnet or school curriculum, or type of training needs to be added or given for the purpose of educating gifted children with dual exceptionalities; 3) explore reinstating the District Parent Advisory Committee for Gifted Education; and 4) provide a report by October 2017 Miami-Dade County School Board meeting.

The following information is provided as an update to the actions and activities related to the implementation of this Board Item. Beginning in October 2017, the National Center for Research on Gifted Education (NCRGE) commenced an extensive two-year study into the scope and quality of services available to gifted students. The NCRGE research team consisted of seven members and visited several schools in the District to investigate and determine the most effective delivery models and programming options for gifted students. Researchers observed reading, language arts, and mathematics instruction in both gifted and general education classes to understand delivery and instructional practices. As part of the study, the researchers also interviewed teachers of the gifted, general education teachers, and administrators. The researchers are also reviewing archived student achievement data from the SAT-10 and Florida Standards Assessment in English language arts and mathematics over a period of five years beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. Preliminary results from the study will be available in the fall of 2019.

To address the specialized training requirements for identifying and serving twice-exceptional students, professional development sessions targeting the identification and needs of dual exceptional students were offered to administrators, counselors, teachers, psychologists, and support staff. Additionally, information on these students' needs were shared with parents during outreach meetings and parent presentations. The Department of Advanced Academic Programs partnered with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources Systems and Dr. Jaime Castellano and Dr. Donna Ford, leading researchers and authors in gifted education, to develop and deliver the various professional development sessions.

Finally, M-DCPS has reconfigured the Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education to include representatives for gifted students. The by-laws for the committee have been amended, and a Gifted Education Sub-Committee has been established. The Gifted Sub-Committee meets bi-monthly to discuss issues and goals in gifted education and share them with panel members.

For additional information on gifted education, please contact Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Academics and Transformation, at 305 995-1451.

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cc: School Board Attorney  
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