

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: IMPROVE COORDINATION OF SERVICES FOR STUDENTS
IN FOSTER CARE**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A problem in this community exists regarding the youngest and oldest of children in foster care. Babies and teenagers alike have been victims of violence and exploitation.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) should request from the Superintendent a plan to ensure that foster children attending M-DCPS do not slip through the cracks. These children need extra preventive measures such as regular meetings with counselors. Homeroom teachers should also be aware of the individual student's situations so they could note peculiar behavior or attendance issues. When needed, other components of the plan could include providing tutoring, and assistance in signing up for free or reduced lunch and ensuring that foster children have adequate uniforms.

M-DCPS should reach out to the other organizations that deal with foster care and work together with these organizations in order to provide better safety and improved education services for children living in foster care or group homes. Although M-DCPS was not responsible for some of the tragedies that have occurred during the past decade in foster care, the District can be a part of the solution to limit or end the crises that many foster care children have experienced.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

DR. MARTIN S. KARP: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, requests that the Superintendent come up with solutions to help ensure the safety and high quality education for those students in foster care and group homes, and seek partnerships with other organizations to provide greater resources for these children.