

## MINUTES

**Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities  
Family and Community Involvement Budget Advisory Subcommittee  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
1450 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Conference Room 916 & Zoom Meeting  
Miami, FL 33132  
Monday, January 13, 2025**

**Voting Members Present:**

Ms. Beverly Heller	Ms. Zoraida Serret
Ms. Laura Philpot	Mr. Antonio White

**Voting Members Present Via Zoom:**

Ms. Nicole Crooks	Mr. Elias Seife
Ms. Janielle Murphy	Ms. Nadeige Theresias-Joisil

**Voting Members Excused/Absent:**

Ms. Paula de Carolis (A)	Mr. James Lopez (A)	Ms. Maria Norton (E)
Ms. Mina Hosseini (E)	Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert (E)	Ms. Meriel C. Seymore (A)

**Others Physically Present/Via Zoom:**

Dr. Verena Cabrera	Mr. Jose Dominguez	Dr. Milagros Hernandez
Mr. Douglas Clark	Ms. Lissette Fernandez	Ms. Ines Meras
Ms. Martha M. Diaz	Ms. Karelys Hernandez	

**I. Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Parent Subcommittee Vice Chair Ms. Beverly Heller and a quorum was not established. Those present introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes for November 18, and December 9, 2024:** As there was no quorum present, voting on approval of the minutes of November 18, and December 9, 2024, Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities, were tabled until the next time a quorum is present.

Meeting convened with reports only.

Ms. Heller opened the floor to Mr. Douglas Clark, Supervisor, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs & Family and Community Engagement, for a presentation on Legislative Priorities Update.

Mr. Clark shared with the group that as part of the Legislative Priority updates, there are about fifteen special project requests of various different funding amounts. These requests will go to appropriation committees for approval:

<u>Title of Project</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>House Sponsor</u>	<u>Senate Sponsor</u>
Cuban American Studies Institute	Provide funding to expand the annual Cuban American Studies Institute established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).	Alex Rizo	Ana Maria Rodriguez

<b><u>Title of Project</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>	<b><u>House Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Senate Sponsor</u></b>
African American Studies Institute	Provide funding to establish an African American Studies Institute, offering three days of professional development for teachers through M-DCPS.	Rep. Ashley Gantt	Sen. Shev Jones
Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer	This program was funded last year, and this will be a continuation of that funding. Most of the funding is specifically for Equipment, and providing access to competitions as well as contracted experts to come in.	Mike Redondo	Ana Maria Rodriguez
Arthur & Polly Mays 6-12 Conservatory of the Arts	Most of the funding is specifically for Equipment, and providing access to competitions as well as contracted experts to come in.	Kevin Chambliss	Alexis Calatayud
Classical Education	The District is requesting \$500,000 for this single program for a single location. Mr. Clark added that this is the first of its kind in the District. This program provides students with a classical education curriculum, centered around the three fundamental stages of the classical model: grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric. To ensure the successful transformation of a traditional public-school model to a classical education school model, M-DCPS has contracted with the Hamilton Classical and Civic Education Center at the University of Florida to work closely with our District staff and school personnel, providing professional development, staff support, instructional materials, curriculum, and school branding/advertising.	Rep. Mike Redondo	Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez
Aerospace Academy at Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior	Secure supplemental funding	Rep. Alex Rizo	
Aerospace Academy at Booker T. Washington High	Secure supplemental funding	Rep. Alex Rizo	
Baker Aviation Aerospace (South Dade Campus)	George T. Baker Aviation Technical College has identified a significant opportunity to elevate and amplify the quality of aviation education in Miami-Dade County at Miami Executive Airport. The District is asking for \$36M for a new campus.		Sen. Alexis Calatayud
District Visual and Performing Arts Programs	Secure supplemental funding to expand VPA programs for district schools in areas where these opportunities may be limited or unavailable.	Not enough information at this time.	Not enough information at this time.
Community Hubs	To deliver educational and family support, resources, and services in Miami-Dade County.	Omar Blanco	Jason Pizzo
Mental Health Screening Pilot	This is a pilot program to screen every child in the district in grades K-3.	Vicki Lopez/Porras is a backup	Ileana Garcia

<b><u>Title of Project</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>	<b><u>House Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Senate Sponsor</u></b>
Afterschool Enrichment Program for ESE Students	To provide funding for a multi-year demonstration at a district elementary or K-8 center.	Vicki Lopez	Ileana Garcia
AI Project	Provide funding to support the new AI Project established by M-DCPS.		
Early Childhood Lab	Provide funding to each public high school that currently offers or plans to offer Early Childhood Education to support the establishment of an Early Childhood Lab.	Alex Rizo	Alexis Calatayudd
Community Hubs @ Chapman Partnership	To provide community services from the school system in one centralized location.	Ashley Gantt	Shev Jones

Mr. Clark added that this is a flexible list and the deadline for submission is February 14, 2025.

Additionally, Mr. Clark said that another part of the legislative program is changing some of the restrictions on the school in the workplace policy to make it easy to install a small campus inside of a business.

Mr. Clark ended his presentation and as requested, he will provide a copy of the fifteen special project requests' list with additional information via email to all members and guests attending the meeting.

Regarding the aerospace academies, and the need to go to the ABC Committee for any of these three requests, Dr. Verena Cabrera, Enterprise Development Officer, explained that the only time something needs to go to the ABC Committee is if there is a boundary change. These requests are mainly to enhance a program at those locations. There will not be a need for additional land or space, therefore nothing will happen to the boundaries of the school in order to implement the program.

The committee discussed, provided comments, questions, concerns, and also requested that updates be provided to them in a more detailed manner. Mr. Clark answered some of the concerns, and the following question will be addressed after gathering additional information:

- Regarding Classical Education, was a feasibility study done for this program? If not what is the status.

Ms. Heller opened the floor to Dr. Cabrera for a presentation on Enrollment. Dr. Cabrera started her presentation on an overview of student enrollment and some of the changes that the district has been dealing with in this area.

Dr. Cabrera mentioned to the group that many people have the wrong perception that the reason why the enrollment in public schools is declining is because it does not have an excellent product. She explained that even though M-DCPS has amazing schools, there are many reasons behind the decline of enrollment. Dr. Cabrera will go over the reasons and those are: impact of declining birth rates, increased education choices, and effect of

scholarships. The purpose of this presentation is to give a little bit of understanding on how these factors are actually impacting M-DCPS enrollment which is tied to funding.

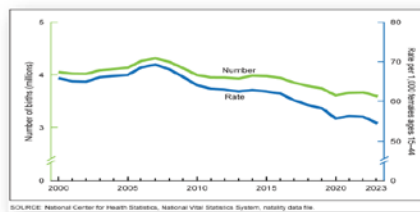
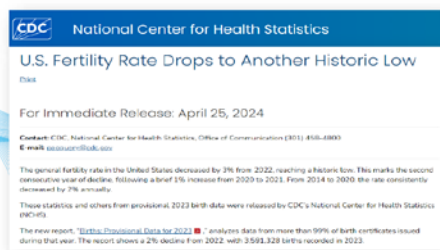
The following chart shows an overview of the declining birthrates. Dr. Cabrera showed that there has been a declining trend since 2014. This trend is impacting our schools since every year fewer kids are coming into M-DCPS.

## NEW LANDSCAPE-DECLINING BIRTHRATES

Enrollment projections published by the National Center for Education Statistics estimate that K-12 enrollments will drop by 2.7 million students between 2022 and 2031. If accurate, in 2031, public schools would have lost almost 4 million students since 2019.



Miami-Dade													
Birth Year/Born	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Births Counts (Miami-Dade County)	32,863	31,993	31,386	30,609	28,847	27,088	29,717	29,305	29,020	29,063	29,150	29,198	29,117
Kinder School Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34
Kinder Enrollment (non-charter / Oct Survey 2)	15,425	15,505	14,803	13,723*	Birth data: Florida Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR) Education Estimating Conference; Kinder enrollment data: ARDA (October - Survey 2)								
Kinder Enrollment (Charter / Oct Survey 2)	6,160	6,366	6,368	6,226*	*2024-25 Kindergarten counts from Frontline / Location Analytics 8-13-24								



Dr. Cabrera displayed a chart showing historical enrollment trends from 2000 to 2025 and pointed out that charter schools' growth is also slowing down due to the scholarships and the private choice.

The following slide shows an interesting historical overview of the Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES). As you can see there is a lot of information.

## NEW LANDSCAPE Family Empowerment Scholarships Caps & Counts

2019-2020 SB 7070	2020-2021 HB 7067	2021-2022 House Bill 7045	2022-2023 SB 2524	2023-2024 HB 1	2024-2025 HB 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Signed into law on May 9, 2019</li><li>Established to provide children of families with limited financial resources with educational options</li><li>Capped at 18,000 students</li><li>Cap was scheduled to grow by 0.25 % of the state's total public-school student enrollment (estimated at about 7,000 students for 2020-21).</li><li>MDCPS had 3,700 students</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Signed into law on June 25, 2020</li><li>Maximum number of students participating in the scholarship program annually increase by 1% of the state's total public school student enrollment. (estimated at about 28,000 students).</li><li>18,000 + 28,589 (1% of state's total) = 46,589 max available</li><li>But only gave out about 36,324</li><li>MDCPS had 7,300 students</li><li>About 20% of total state FES participants</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Signed into law on May 11, 2021</li><li>Expanded the program to include two branches of eligibility, the income-based FES for Educational Options (FES-EO) and the FES for Students with Unique Abilities (FES-UA).</li><li>McKay Scholarship Program joined FES under the Unique Abilities category</li><li>Maximum program capacity* for FES-UA of 20,000 students beginning in 2021-2022, with this maximum number increasing by 1.0% of the State's total (ESE) FTE enrollment.</li><li>MDCPS- FES (EO) = 17,518</li><li>MDCPS- FES (UA) = 4,330</li><li>TOTAL = 21,848 students</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maximum number of Unique Abilities (FES-UA) students to be 26,500 in 2022-23 with this maximum number increasing by 1.0% of the State's total Exceptional Student Education (ESE) FTE enrollment.</li><li>MDCPS- FES (EO) = 15,183</li><li>MDCPS- FES (UA) = 9,055</li><li>TOTAL = 24,238 students</li><li>Financial eligibility restrictions and the enrollment cap for FES (EO) have been eliminated.</li><li>FES-UA increasing by 3.0% of the State's total Exceptional Student Education (ESE) FTE enrollment.</li><li>FES (EO) = 22,489</li><li>FES (UA) = 14,486</li><li>TOTAL= 36,975 students</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>FES (PEP) State allocated 60,000 statewide and will increase to 100,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.</li><li>FES (EO-UA) = 52,174</li><li>TOTAL= 52,174 students</li></ul>	
Amount Deducted \$65,291,844	Amount Deducted \$88,058,918	Amount Deducted \$184,164,229	Amount Deducted \$227,846,187	Amount Deducted \$345,672,852	Amount Deducted \$462,471,850
M-DCPS Student Membership (includes PK-A & O and charter / October - Survey 2)					
347,069	334,400	329,337	335,725	337,172	331,262

The top row shows the bill associated with the changes of that particular year. The description of the bills is a brief recap since the actual bill is very lengthy. The origin of the FES was on 2019-2020. Dr. Cabrera explained that there were scholarships prior to this but they were

not part of the finance educational system, taxpayers' dollars. The slide shows how at the beginning there was criteria for home income in order to qualify. Furthermore, the amount of scholarships was also capped at 18,000 for the entire state plus additional criteria regarding prior year enrollment. You can see on the chart the number of M-DCPS students who participated, and the amount deducted for that year. Fast forward to the following year, the cap was increased and by 2023, the Unique Abilities (FES UA) increased significantly due to the inclusion of the Gardiner Scholarship FTE. Prior to this year the FES UA FTE was made up of the McKay Scholarships FTE and the increase that you see for 2022-23 was due to the Gardiner Scholarship FTE which had previously been excluded from the FEFP FTE. In 2023-2024 all criteria pertaining to family financial income was removed as well as the cap which limited the number of scholarships available. The number of students participating now has grown and Dr. Cabrera pointed out that these 52,174 students are not necessarily kids that have left M-DCPS to attend a private school. Many of those students were already participating in the private school setting and are now applying for the scholarship. The crucial factor that Dr. Cabrera wants to highlight, specially at this committee is that those are dollars that are being put into private education.

The Home Education Programs are also growing. In 2023-2024, the Personalized Education Program originated and is funded not through FES but through Florida Tax Credit Scholarships. This year there are 60,000 students in this program and next year it is expected to go up to 100,000 in the state of Florida.

The following chart shows the number of students in Miami-Dade enrolled in the Home Education program:

Education program.

Miami-Dade

Home Education Enrollment by Grade-Location 8015														
Year	K	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	Total
20-21 (May '21)	428	453	464	431	459	421	420	438	465	450	507	484	463	5,883
21-22 (Jan '22)	243	448	448	462	430	496	434	434	489	456	537	550	487	5,914
22-23 (Jul '23)	220	321	462	460	475	447	523	492	545	614	604	655	550	6,368
23-24 (Aug '23)	26	220	322	457	462	466	443	527	482	522	602	607	666	5,802
24-25 (Jan '25)	154	275	347	414	497	511	500	522	620	575	638	734	730	6,517

Data source: FLDOE & FASCO

**24-25 Florida Tax Credit-Personalized Education Program**  
**Student Count**  
**2,845 students for M-DCPS**

**TOTAL**

**9,362**

Dr. Cabrera explained that kids are required to enroll with the local education agency. However, if they are getting a scholarship from the Florida Tax Credit scholarship, they have to withdraw from the Home Education Program with M-DCPS and enroll with the scholarship organization. In Miami-Dade County right now there are 6,517 enrolled with the school district and almost 3,000 that are getting vouchers from the Florida Tax Credit scholarship to be part of the Personalized Education Program for about a total of 9,362 students who are at home getting an education guided completely by their parents. These two parent choices impact the district because they are not attending public schools.

Dr. Cabrera moved on to speak about how the district would navigate this new educational choice landscape and maintain M-DCPS as the best choice and admitted that this is complex work. In the past few years, the district has created new strategies and positions in order to navigate the new educational choice landscape and try to find ways to ensure efficiency and sustainability.

The district is also doing a districtwide analysis of key data elements, like student enrollment, seat utilization, adjacent schools and feeder patterns, boundary, demographic projections, building & acres, housing inventory & needs, and academic choice programs, to prioritize projects and move forward to ensure that M-DCPS is the best choice.

Dr. Cabrera concluded her presentation and invited members and guests to share any questions or concerns they may have.

The committee discussed, provided comments, questions, and concerns which were addressed by Dr. Cabrera.

**III. New Business:** Ms. Martha M. Diaz, Chief Budget Officer, Office of Budget Management, asked attendees to provide topics for future presentations since legislature starts later this year, and it is what impacts the budget. Attendees asked for a detailed presentation on the full listing of legislative priorities and how those became essential.

Regarding last month's presentation on committee bylaws, specifically the one which state that *members of the subcommittee may serve unlimited years; however, may only serve two years as chair*, Ms. Ines Metas, District Director, Office of Family and Community Engagement, clarified that since the procedures on the bylaws were not followed, elections would need to be held again. In order to have a quorum at the next meeting, Ms. Heller encouraged all members to physically attend the next meeting.

Ms. Heller made the announcement that Mr. Antonio White is running for President of the United Teachers of Dade (UTD). Attendees gave him good wishes on the election.

**IV: Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.