

**Instruction--Elementary and Secondary****BILINGUAL EDUCATION/FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

As a primary educational goal, it is the policy of the Miami-Dade County School Board that all students shall become proficient in the English language. Therefore, English for Speakers of Other Languages shall be a required course for all students of limited English proficiency. The Board also shall provide such students with the opportunity to study in and through their native language until they can participate fully in the regular program in English.

Furthermore, opportunities and encouragement shall be extended to the parents of limited English proficient students to increase their facility in English. It is intended that, to the extent resources are available, all students, both native speakers of English and speakers of other languages, because of the significant size of Miami-Dade County's other-than-English-language-origin population and its proximity to the Caribbean and Latin America, shall have the opportunity and shall be strongly encouraged to become proficient in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish or other languages in addition to English.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, serving a community reflecting many languages and cultures, is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for all students. This includes ensuring that every student will become proficient in English communication skills, is strongly urged to become proficient in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish or another language other than English, and, to the extent appropriate, is strongly urged to use a language other than English in addition to English as a tool for learning and as preparation for entry into the world of work.

The following goals for bilingual education and foreign languages are designed to implement this commitment. It is expected that each student, to the extent individual physical, mental, and emotional capacities permit, will achieve consistent progress toward the attainment of these goals.

*Goal 1            Students who are of limited English proficiency shall participate in a program of English for Speakers of Other Languages which is designed to enable such students to communicate and function successfully in their English speaking environment.*

The Superintendent of Schools will establish objectives, curriculum-based competencies, and procedures for a program of English for Speakers of Other Languages. This program will be designed to ensure that students entering Miami-Dade County Public Schools with little or no ability to understand, speak, read, and write English will be able to communicate and function successfully in their English environment within three years or less and that students who enter the system with some but limited English communication skills will be able to communicate and function successfully in English within two years or less.

*Goal II All students shall have the opportunity and shall be strongly urged to participate in programs designed to enable students to communicate and function successfully in an environment where Spanish or another language other than English is used.*

For the elementary level, the Superintendent of Schools will establish objectives, curriculum-based competencies, and procedures for a program of Spanish for Spanish Speakers and for a program of Spanish as a Second Language. The program of Spanish for Spanish Speakers will be designed to ensure that participating students will develop basic skills in Spanish comparable to those developed in English at the same grade level. The program of Spanish as a Second Language will be designed to ensure that participating students develop Spanish communication skills at a pace consistent with the curriculum-based competencies established for the program. Both programs will develop an awareness of and appreciation for Hispanic cultures.

For the secondary level, the Superintendent of Schools will establish objectives, curriculum-based competencies, and procedures for programs of Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Spanish as a Foreign Language, and other foreign languages, such as French, German, or other modern foreign languages. Such programs will be designed to ensure that participating students develop skills in listening to, speaking, reading, and writing in the language under study consistent with curriculum-based competencies, as well as an awareness of and appreciation for the culture(s) of groups using that language. The program may be extended to include classic languages as demand merits.

*Goal III All students shall have the opportunity and shall be strongly urged to participate in programs using Spanish, Haitian-Creole, or another language other than English in addition to English as the medium of instruction to the extent that such participation is consistent with the learning needs of the students and the interests of the students and parents.*

The Superintendent of Schools will establish objectives, curriculum-based competencies, and procedures for a program of Curriculum Content in the Home Language/Bilingual Curriculum Content. This program will utilize English and Spanish, Haitian-Creole, or another language as media of instruction and will be designed to ensure that limited English proficient students develop skills, concepts, and understandings comparable to those developed when such studies are undertaken only in English. Each elementary and middle school with students of limited English proficiency shall provide the opportunity for such students to use their home language as well as English in the development of basic skills and in the study of content areas such as social studies, science, and mathematics to help maintain academic achievement while the students are learning English. Senior high schools may also provide such programs for students of limited proficiency. At all levels, schools wishing to provide English language origin students or other students who

are independent in English with opportunities to participate in programs using Spanish or other language as one of the media of instruction may do so on approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

In establishing and operating programs to achieve the above-stated goals, the Superintendent of Schools shall establish procedures which:

Recognize that developing competency in English is of the highest priority;

Select and assign personnel who are linguistically and otherwise qualified to carry out the objectives of each program;

Provide staff development as necessary to ensure that personnel are qualified to implement the program or programs to which they are assigned;

Provide articulation between levels to ensure continuity of instruction;

Provide monitoring of each program to ensure that procedures being implemented are compatible with established objectives;

Provide periodic evaluation of each program to determine the extent to which curriculum-based competencies are being met; and

Comply with the LULAC et al. V. State Board of Education (SBE) Consent Decree, and Florida Statutes and State Board of Education rules governing programs and services for limited English proficient students and their parents.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 229.6055; 240.2333; 230.23(7);

233.058 F.S. 6A-6.0901; 6A-6.0902; 6A-6.0903; 6A-6.0904; 6A-6.0905; 6A-6.0906; 6A-6.0908; 6A-6.0909 FAC

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