

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES;
PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools ("MDCPS") is the third largest school district in the United States, and it provides education and critical services to children and families in Pinecrest and throughout our community; and

WHEREAS, the MDCPS Board has approved the MDCPS 2026 State Legislative Priorities, attached hereto as Exhibit "A," which encourages the Florida legislature to fund several key measures related to public schools in the MDCPS district; and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to express its support of MDCPS Board's 2026 State of Florida Legislative Priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council finds that this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents of the Village,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Village Council hereby expresses its support of the MDCPS 2026 State Legislative Priorities as further provided in Exhibit "A."

Section 2. The Village Clerk is hereby directed to transmit this Resolution to the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, the MDCPS Board, and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of November, 2025.

Joseph M. Corradino, Mayor

Attest:

Priscilla Torres, MMC
Village Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency:

Mitchell Bierman
Village Attorney
Consent Agenda

Exhibit “A”



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT

The Florida Legislature should establish a five-year strategic plan to restore, stabilize, and increase funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to achieve at least the national average in per pupil expenditures to provide the highest quality education and to enable all of our students to be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS

Florida's commitment to Early Childhood Education:

- Expand funding for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program sufficient to cover the cost of a full-day Prekindergarten program for all students.
- Expand VPK to include program options for three-year old students.

FUNDING

Redefine cost factors within the FEFP beyond the comparative wage factor to include factors which disproportionately impact high-cost counties such as housing, transportation, health, and property insurance cost, which ultimately raise educational institutions operational costs.

Increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) commensurate with the rate of inflation and cost-of-living increases, but no less than 5 percent new funding, and maintain the full calculation of the Required Local Effort (RLE).

Allow school districts to manage the Florida Empowerment Scholarship (FES) vouchers.

Assist with the reconciliation of potential duplicate cases associated with the Florida Empowerment Scholarships (FES) vouchers and the reporting of FTE.

Ensure that the full cost of increases expected for the Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES) is accounted for during the FY 2026-2027 budget development and that the FTE associated with that projection remains transparent. FES scholarships funded outside of our FTE only if categorical.

Maintain the Education Enrollment Stabilization Program in an amount necessary to prevent proration as a result of anticipated enrollment increases (FES, immigration, natural disasters, demographic shifts).

Eliminate compression within the FEFP formula.

Maintain funding levels for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, Career & Technical Education (CTE), and Dual Enrollment (DE) through the Academic Acceleration Options Supplement.

Continue to invest in teacher and instructional personnel compensation improvement by providing sufficient funding to the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) to ensure salary increases beyond the prior fiscal year amount.

Increase the Safe Schools categorical allocation by at least \$40 million to narrow the funding gap associated with the mandate to staff one “safe school officer” per school and ensure sustainable funding for school districts.

Increase the mental health allocation to expand services to students and facilitate the hiring of additional school counselors, social workers, and/or psychologists; or to implement other effective mental health strategies.

Increase per pupil funding for all students with exceptionalities (Gifted/SWDs) to account for both student population growth and inflationary costs related to services/programs.

Support funding to enhance community resources and post-secondary opportunities such as community-based life skills and transitional programs, for young adults with disabilities including those on the Autism Spectrum who are transitioning out of the K-12 environment.

Provide funding for Dual Enrollment courses or virtual classes outside the traditional school day, above the 1.0 FTE or 25 hours/week.

Support property tax limitations for qualified senior citizens on qualified Homesteaded property.

Establish a disaster recovery fund for Florida Public School Districts to ensure the recovery and restoration of educational facilities in the aftermath of any hurricane or other catastrophic event, covering losses both above and below any collectible property insurance limits.

Protect school districts from any reduction in revenue resulting from any proposed property tax reform.

Increase the Transportation Categorical to reflect operational and capital costs.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Request flexibility on the use of Impact Fees for school additions/renovations to better serve students.

Establish that when distributing 1.5 mill capital outlay funds to charter schools, the total discretionary millage revenue available for distribution shall be reduced by the school district's annual debt service obligation incurred as of June 30 of each prior fiscal year.

For purposes of calculation and distribution of capital outlay funds, include PK and Post-secondary/CTE FTE membership counts in the methodology calculation of eligible students for capital outlay funds (October v. February FTE).

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM

Remove the requirement for the State Board of Education to automatically annually adjust the school grading scale.

Authorize school districts to exempt Students with Disabilities who have a Full-Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ) of 75 or below from the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) requirements after one unsuccessful attempt.

GOVERNANCE

Amend F.S. 1001.372(1) to allow school boards to omit one regular monthly meeting per calendar year.

Support the streamlining of statutory and State Administrative Code requirements in order to enhance the efficiency of public-school operations.

Authorize district school boards to develop and manage workforce housing on its owned or leased property for its employees and other qualifying individuals as provided in the Live Local Act and stipulate that such educational villages and buildings shall be considered educational facilities for the purpose of design, construction, permitting, and inspection.

Include program utilization in the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) to integrate Pre-K, Daytime Adult Education, Training Career Centers to include Workforce Education, and essential community support initiatives.

Ensure School Board control of Board-owned property.

TEACHERS/PERSONNEL

Amend Rule 6A-1.0503(3)(b)(1) and (3) to reflect individuals assigned to teach out of field shall complete “3 semester hours or equivalent in-service toward appropriate certification per year” in lieu of 6 semester hours.

Amend F.S. 1004.85 to enable more relevant and aligned teacher preparation programs, better serving the needs of districts and students by ensuring better teacher preparation programs (Educator Preparation Institutes).

Amend the teacher apprenticeship program to allow eligibility based on an Associate’s degree or 60 credit hours from an accredited higher education institution.

Provide incentives and/or funding to facilitate the development of workforce housing specifically for public school personnel.

Include Pre-K staff in the definition of “Instructional Personnel”.

SCHOOL/STUDENT SAFETY/WELLNESS

Provide increased funding for safety infrastructure needs, inclusive of school campus hardening, lightning detections systems at schools with outdoor play fields, and/or facilities where no other such device exists within a one-mile radius, and alert systems.

Provide funding to school districts to upgrade and strengthen cyber security controls.

Provide funding to support at least one nurse or emergency medical technician at each school.

Amend F.S. 1003.572 to require collaboration between public and private providers and require private providers to adhere to school board policies and procedures while on school property.

Amend F.S. 1003.572 to require the development of a standardized behavioral support plan.

Allow districts to establish parameters for service providers which limit disruption to the instructional environment.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

FUNDING

Provide funding for an optional summer school program for all students.

Provide sufficient funding necessary to cover increased costs to school districts for annual consumable materials associated with state-adopted texts.

Support increased funding to meet the demands for workforce skills development programs.

Provide school districts with greater flexibility in use of Title I funds by separating the indirect cost from the 10% allowable administrative set-aside and increasing the allowable educational services set-aside to a set 10%.

Provide supplemental funding to offset additional costs of ESE screenings and consultations associated with both FES (formerly UA) evaluations and private service providers engagement and coordination.

Establish grant opportunities to provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and expansion of Innovative K-12 Public Schools in the state.

TEACHER/PERSONNEL SHORTAGE

Restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) that was suspended from the Florida Retirement System (FRS) defined benefit calculation in 2011, with commensurate funding.

Implement and fund strategies such as tuition reimbursement, scholarships, and/or other incentives for talented individuals pursuing a postsecondary degree in School Counseling.

Allow school district personnel to redeem accrued leave days/time towards down-payment assistance for the purchase of a primary residence.

Permit local districts to design a differentiated pay plan for teachers inclusive of a performance pay measure, based on local needs.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM

Provide flexibility within the State's school accountability system to hold districts or schools harmless for students who transition from voucher programs back to the district with limited academic preparedness.

Ensure all recipients of K-12 public funding are subject to the same regulatory and accountability standards.

Ensure that the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) test is offered in Haitian Creole and/or provide translation assistance or tools.

Realign the responsibility to administer the Civic Literacy Assessment Requirement associated with the college requirement established during the 2020-2021 legislative session from school district to state colleges/universities.

Define goals for English Language Learners (ELL) and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) subgroups based on achieving learning gains on state assessments as opposed to achieving proficiency.

Modify F.S. 1008.34 (3)(d)(1) to provide an exemption in the school grade calculation to the home school for students assigned to an alternative school or a department of juvenile justice program for the entirety of the same academic school year, in which the assessment is administered, or for students who have never attended the home school.

Modify F.S. 1008.34(3)(d)(2) to clarify that only students who have attended the home schools in the same academic year should be included in the school grade calculation.

ACADEMICS

Amend F.S. 1009.534(1)(e) related to the Florida Academic Scholars Award to include student eligibility for the award for those recognized by the College Board National Recognition Program – School Recognition Award.

Allow applicants for Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS), as part of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, to be held harmless if the inclusion of the scores in the optional Science portion of the American College Testing (ACT) standardized test do not benefit the applicant’s qualifying composite score.

Establish funding for the creation a post-secondary plan for K-12 students.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Amend Castaldi analysis to allow for flexibility when analysing redevelopment projects at a particular school site that would allow demolitions of a building 40 years or less.

SCHOOL/STUDENT SAFETY

Support full funding for required water safety and swimming instruction in all public schools.

Require charter schools to report their SESIR incident data independently of school districts.

Amend F.S. 1011.68(1)(a) to allow districts to determine the membership of students who are transported “by reason of living one and a half (1.5) miles or more from school”.

POLICY STATEMENTS

FUNDING

Amend F.S. 1002.333 to introduce a cost-sharing model for Schools of Hope co-locating in public school facilities and require Schools of Hope to contribute to operational and capital costs through facility use fees and reimbursement for services to ensure equitable financial responsibility and support the maintenance of the building infrastructure.

Oppose the imposition of unfunded, state mandated expenditures.

Oppose any further compression of the Discretionary Millage.

Oppose legislation that increases the sovereign immunity liability limits on governmental agencies.

Maintain the current required employers' contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing any planned increase in local employers' contribution.

Support funding for Adults with Disabilities.

Ensure districts that receive students from legal immigration or disaster-impacted areas are provided supplemental funding as may be necessary to support all student services.

Ensure that school district affiliated and approved 501(c)(3) scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs) are approved and are included on the state list of eligible SGOs submitted to the U.S. Treasury Department.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Provide adequate school construction funding to support new and existing facilities, technology, maintenance, land acquisition, and class size reduction needs through the establishment of long-term, stable, and recurring revenue sources to fulfill the state's educational facility needs.

Oppose the deletion of impact fees unless replaced with another revenue source.

GOVERNANCE

Support constitutionally elected school boards and elected or appointed superintendents' authority to supervise all public schools.

Oppose any changes to current requirements regarding charter conversion of traditional public schools, including conversion by municipalities or that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

Establish a level playing field for traditional public schools by extending the current statutory flexibility such as the exemption from State Requirements for Education Facilities (SREF), categorical funding, accountability, class-size reduction compliance, and related penalties assessed on charter schools.

Support maximum flexibility and autonomy for school board operated Early Childhood and VPK Programs.

Oppose legislation that subverts district governance on constitutionally elected school boards and elected or appointed superintendents.

Oppose legislation that reduces school board authority over charter schools.

Oppose legislation that modifies the governance structure of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Oppose legislation that breaks up large school districts.

Oppose legislation that negatively impacts the salaries of school board members.

Support legislation that strengthens public accountability and transparency within Florida's Utility Rate-Setting process and ensure that school districts are held harmless to increased utility rates.

Amend F.S. 1002.333 to state that schools which receive an accountability grade of "A" or "B" within the last three years are not eligible for automatic co-location by a School of Hope.

ACADEMICS

Clarify and protect policies, practices, and procedures that govern and legislate the teaching of African American history as stipulated in F.S. 1003.42, adopted in 1994, which requires instruction of history, culture, experiences, and contribution in the state's K-12 curriculum.

Ensure that state-defined principles of individual freedom, if applicable to K-12 curriculum, are applied equally to all special topics such as Women's History, Hispanic Heritage, Holocaust Education and Character Education.

Provide a one-year lead time on the implementation of new state academic requirements for school districts.

Support legislation that expands incentives and provides flexibility to individuals entering the school counseling profession such as creating teacher to counselor pathways or other programs.

Support legislation that includes the implementation of formal keyboarding instruction as a component of digital literacy education.

STUDENT SAFETY/WELLNESS

Support legislation that increases penalties for firing a gun within 1,000 feet of a school and that establishes penalties for the unsupervised possession of a firearm by a minor.

Support legislation and state funding to increase awareness of opioid drug use and its impact.

Support funding to provide training for students, parents, teachers, school administrators, counseling staff, and volunteers to learn how to recognize behaviors that lead to bullying and harassment.

Support legislation to ensure that the sale of low-THC edibles is precluded within 1,000 feet of a school.

Amend F.S. 1002.222 to include "a school district may use biometric information for the purpose of secure authentication and access control to educational systems, devices, or facilities."

PROJECT REQUESTS

Secure supplemental funding for Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer, Arthur & Polly Mays 6-12 Conservatory of the Arts, Classical Education, Aerospace Academies at Booker T. Washington High School and Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School, and Baker Aviation Aerospace (South Dade Campus).

Secure continued supplemental funding for District's Visual and Performing Arts.

Provide funding to expand the annual Cuban American Studies Institute established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and implemented in partnership with Florida International University.

Provide funding for the annual African American Studies Institute established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Provide funding to support the new AI Project established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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.

Allocate funding for a universal mental health screening pilot in Miami-Dade County for students in grades 4-8.

Secure supplemental funding for the establishment of community hubs to deliver educational and family support, resources, and services in Miami-Dade County.