

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 2, 2012

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida Legislature to restore School Readiness funding to the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe that recently has been reduced as a result of a new statewide funding formula; identifying this issue as a critical County priority for the 2013 session

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/smm

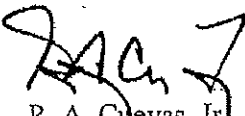


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(Revised)

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(20)

10-2-12

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO RESTORE SCHOOL READINESS FUNDING TO THE EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF MIAMI-DADE/MONROE THAT RECENTLY HAS BEEN REDUCED AS A RESULT OF A NEW STATEWIDE FUNDING FORMULA; IDENTIFYING THIS ISSUE AS A CRITICAL COUNTY PRIORITY FOR THE 2013 SESSION

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2012, Florida's Office of Early Learning released a new School Readiness funding allocation formula for fiscal year 2012-13; and

WHEREAS, the new formula attempts to achieve equity for all 67 Florida counties by redistributing the existing state School Readiness allocation; and

WHEREAS, the statewide impact varies from county to county, but the overall School Readiness budget reduction as a result of this redistribution for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties is \$3.7 million for fiscal year 2012-2013, with \$3,564,477 for Miami-Dade County and the remainder for Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this \$3.7 million funding reduction from the state is that approximately 1,000 children will not have access to School Readiness programs and services in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties are slated to lose a total of \$22,334,067 over the next six years in funding for School Readiness programs; and

WHEREAS, the reductions over the next six-year period represent approximately 20 percent of the total School Readiness funding for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, which will impact a total of approximately 6,000 children who will not have access to services; and

WHEREAS, in addition, 11,281 children between birth and eight years of age that are currently on the Miami-Dade/Monroe waiting list will not have a chance of receiving School Readiness services; and

WHEREAS, in previous years, the Florida Legislature, Florida's Office of Early Learning and Early Learning Coalitions had agreed that the equity formula should only be applied to new dollars, but in December, 2011, Florida's Auditor General released Report No. 2012-061, which found that Florida's Office of Early Learning had been required effective July 1, 2010 to establish a formula for allocating among Early Learning Coalitions *all* federal and state funds for children participating in School Readiness Programs based on "equity for each county"; and

WHEREAS, based on the implementation of this new formula by the Office of Early Learning, funding will be shifted to other Early Learning Coalitions around Florida, creating a funding impact to the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe of \$3.7 million in the current fiscal year and more than \$22 million over the next six years, which includes an overall share of an \$8,523,450 reduction of non-recurring dollars to the state's overall School Readiness allocation; and

WHEREAS, this Board would request that the Florida Legislature revise the "equity funding formula" to restore \$3.7 million for fiscal year 2012-13, currently impacting 1,000 children who could be receiving School Readiness programs and services and restore the overall slated reduction of \$22 million in School Readiness funding over the next six years, which is estimated to impact approximately 6,000 children currently receiving services and over 11,281 on the waiting list who will not stand a chance of receiving services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to restore School Readiness funding to the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe that recently has been reduced as a result of a new statewide funding formula.

Section 2. Identifies the issue set forth in section 1 above as a critical County priority for the 2013 state legislative session.

Section 3. Directs the Clerk of this Board to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation and the Director of Florida's Office of Early Learning.

Section 4. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation and action set forth in section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2013 State Legislative Package as a critical County priority when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Lynda Bell
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 2nd day of October, 2012. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Jmm/APW

Jess M. McCarty