

# **EDUCATIONAL ELEMENT**

## **GOAL**

**DEVELOP, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, WHICH WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE CITIZENRY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.**

## **Objective EDU-1**

**Work towards the reduction of the overcrowding which currently exists in the Miami-Dade County Public School System while striving to attain an optimum level of service. Strive to provide additional solutions to overcrowding so that countywide enrollment in Miami-Dade County's public schools does not exceed 115% of current Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) capacity (both permanent and relocatables). Additionally, by 2010 Miami-Dade County Public Schools shall meet state requirements for class size. This numeric objective is adopted solely as a guideline for school facility planning and shall not be used as a Level of Service Standard or as a basis for denial of development orders.**

## **Policies**

- EDU-1A. Cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in their efforts to continue to provide new student stations through the Capital Outlay program, in so far as funding is available.
- EDU-1B. Collect impact fees from new development for transfer to the Miami-Dade County Public School System to offset the impacts of these additional students on the capital facilities of the school system.
- EDU-1C. Cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in their efforts to develop and implement alternative educational facilities such as primary learning centers which can be constructed on small parcels of land and relieve overcrowding at elementary schools, in so far as funding and rules permit.
- EDU-1D. Cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in their efforts to provide public school facilities to the students of Miami-Dade County, which operate on optimum capacity, in so far as funding available. Operational alternatives may be developed and implemented, where appropriate, which mitigate the impacts of overcrowding while maintaining the instructional integrity of the educational program.

- EDU-1E. Cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in their efforts to maintain and/or improve the established level of service (LOS), for Public Educational Facilities, as established for the purposes of collecting Impact Fees, in so far as funding available.
- EDU-1F. The Miami-Dade County School Board (School Board) comments shall be sought and considered on comprehensive plan amendments and other land use decisions which could impact the school district, when the proposed (re) development would result in an increase of FISH capacity (permanent and relocatables) in excess of 115%, in order to be consistent with the terms of the state mandated Interlocal Agreement pursuant to Section 1013.33, Florida Statutes.
- EDU-1G. Capital improvement programming by the Miami-Dade Public School System should be based on future enrollment projections and demographic shifts and targeted to enhance the effectiveness of the learning environment. The future enrollment projections should utilize student population projections based on information produced by the demographic, revenue, and education estimating conferences pursuant to Section 216.136, Florida Statutes, where available, as modified by the School Board based on development data and agreement with the local governments, the State Office of Educational Facilities and the State SMART Schools Clearinghouse. The School Board may request adjustment to the estimating conferences' projections to reflect actual enrollment and development trends. In formulating such a request, the School Board will coordinate with the Cities and County regarding development trends and future population projections.
- EDU-1H. It is the policy of Miami-Dade County that the Miami-Dade Public School System should give priority to the Urban Infill Area (UIA) identified in CDMP Capital Improvements Element Figure 1 when allocating resources toward the attainment of the level of service objective for public educational facilities (Objective EDU-1), followed by more recently developed and newly developing areas outside the UIA and within the Urban Development Boundary (UDB).

## **Objective EDU-2**

### **Obtain suitable sites for the development and expansion of public educational facilities.**

#### **Policies**

- EDU-2A. It is the policy of Miami-Dade County that the Miami-Dade County Public School System shall not purchase sites for schools nor build new schools outside of the Urban Development Boundary (UDB), and that new

elementary schools constructed should be located at least 1/4 mile inside the UDB; new middle schools should be located at least 1/2 mile inside the UDB, and; new senior high schools should be located at least one mile inside the UDB. In substantially developed areas of the County where suitable sites in full conformance with the foregoing are not available and a site or portion of a site for a new school must encroach closer to the UDB, the majority of the site should conform with the foregoing location criteria and the principal school buildings and entrances should be placed as far as functionally practical from the UDB. The same criteria of this paragraph that apply to public schools also pertain to private schools.

- EDU-2B. In the selection of sites for future educational facility development, the County encourages the district to consider whether a school in that location would provide a logical focal point for community activities.
- EDU-2C. Where possible, the Public School District should seek sites which are adjacent to existing or planned public recreation areas, community centers, libraries, or other compatible civic uses for the purpose of encouraging joint use facilities or the creation of logical focal points for community activity.
- EDU-2D. The County acknowledges and concurs that, when selecting a site, the district will consider if the site meets the minimum size criteria as recommended by the State Department of Education or as determined to be necessary for an effective educational environment.
- EDU-2E. When considering a site for possible use as an educational facility, the district should review the adequacy and proximity of other public facilities and services necessary to the site such as roadway access, fire flow and potable water, sanitary sewers, and police and fire services.
- EDU-2F. When considering a site for possible use as an educational facility the district should consider whether the present and projected surrounding land uses are compatible with the operation of an educational facility.
- EDU-2G. Miami-Dade County shall encourage and cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in their effort to update the "Process/Procedures Manual" for public school siting reviews to help accomplish the objectives and policies of this and other elements of the CDMP. The County shall cooperate with the Public School System to establish provisions for a scoping or pre-application meeting as part of the educational facilities review process, if determined to be warranted.
- EDU-2H. Miami-Dade County should continue to cooperate with Miami-Dade County Public School System in utilizing Miami-Dade County Public Schools as emergency shelters during county emergencies.

### **Objective EDU-3**

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools, in conjunction with the County and other appropriate agencies, will strive to improve security and safety for students and staff.**

#### **Policies**

- EDU-3A. Continue to cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System to develop and/or implement programs and policies designed to reduce the incidence of violence, weapons and vandalism on school campuses. Encourage the design of facilities, which do not encourage criminal behavior and provide clear sight lines from the street.
- EDU-3B. Continue to cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System to develop and/or implement programs and policies designed to reduce the number of incidents related to hazardous conditions as reported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the fire marshal, the State Department of Education (DOE), and other appropriate sources.
- EDU-3C. Continue to cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System to provide for the availability of alternative programs for at-risk students at appropriate public educational facilities.
- EDU-3D. Coordinate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System and municipalities to provide for pedestrian and traffic safety in the area of schools, and signalization for educational facilities.
- EDU-3E. Coordinate with the MDCPS Division of School Police and other law enforcement agencies, where appropriate, to improve and provide for a secure learning environment in the public schools and their vicinity.

### **Objective EDU-4**

**Continue to develop programs and opportunities to bring the schools and community closer together.**

#### **Policies**

- EDU-4A. Cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in their efforts to provide "full service" schools, parent resource centers, adult and community schools and programs as appropriate.
- EDU-4B. Cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in their efforts to continue to provide opportunities for community and business leaders to serve on committees and task forces, which relate to the development of improved provision of public educational facilities.

- EDU-4C. Cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System to continue to work with the development industry to encourage partnerships in the provision of sites and educational facilities including primary learning centers.
- EDU-4D. Cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System through agreement with appropriate agencies to increase medical, psychological, and social services for children and their families as appropriate.

### **Objective EDU-5**

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools will continue to enhance effectiveness of the learning environment.**

#### **Policies**

- EDU-5A. Miami-Dade County Public School System is encouraged to continue the design and construction of educational facilities which create the perception of feeling welcome, secure and positive about the students' school environment and experiences.
- EDU-5B. The Miami-Dade County Public School System is encouraged to continue to design and construct facilities which better provide student access to technology designed to improve learning, such as updated media centers and science laboratories.
- EDU-5C. The Miami-Dade County Public School System is encourage to continue to improve existing educational facilities, in so far as funding is available, through renovation and expansion to better accommodate increasing enrollment, new educational programs and other activities, both curricular and extra-curricular.

### **Objective EDU-6**

**The establishment and implementation of mechanism(s) for on-going coordination and communication between the School Board, the County, and other appropriate jurisdictions, to ensure the adequate provision of public educational facilities.**

#### **Policies**

- EDU-6A. The County shall coordinate and cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the State, municipalities and other appropriate agencies to develop or modify rules and regulations in order to simplify and expedite proposed new educational facility developments and renovations.

- EDU-6B. The location of future educational facilities should occur where capacity of other public facilities and services is available to accommodate the infrastructure needs of the educational facility.
- EDU-6C. The Miami-Dade County Public School System should coordinate school capital improvement plans with the planned capital improvement projects of other County and municipal agencies.
- EDU-6D. The County shall cooperate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in their efforts to ensure that they are not obligated to pay for off-site infrastructure in excess of their fair share of the costs.
- EDU-6E. The County and Miami-Dade Public School System shall periodically review the Educational Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance to strive to ensure that the full eligible capital costs associated with the development of public school capacity (new schools and expansion of existing ones) are identified when updating the impact fee structure. Pursuant to the terms of the state mandated Interlocal Agreement, the County and School Board shall annually review the Ordinance, its formula, the Educational Facilities Impact Fee methodology and technical report, in order to make recommendations for revisions to the Board of County Commissioners.
- EDU-6F. The County shall seek to coordinate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System in formalizing criteria for appropriate sharing of responsibility for required off-site facility improvements attributable to construction of new public schools or expansion of existing ones. The criteria should be prepared prior to the next full review of the School Impact Fee Ordinance.
- EDU-6G. The County shall coordinate with the Miami-Dade County Public School System and local governments to eliminate infrastructure deficiencies surrounding existing school sites.
- EDU-6H. The County and the Miami-Dade County Public School System shall coordinate efforts to ensure the availability of adequate sites for the required educational facilities.
- EDU-6I. The County and the Miami-Dade County Public School System shall coordinate the appropriate roles and responsibilities of affected governmental jurisdictions in ensuring the timely, orderly and efficient provision of adequate educational facilities.
- EDU-6J. Miami-Dade County will account for the infrastructure needs of new, planned or expanded educational facilities when formulating and implementing its own capital improvement plans.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROGRAM**

In order to enable the preparation of the periodic Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) as required by Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Rule 9J-5.0053, F.A.C., this section will outline the procedures for the monitoring and evaluating of the Element and its implementation.

### **Monitoring Requirements**

The primary mechanism to monitor progress in achieving the objectives and policies in this Element is the collection and update of appropriate baseline data. Further, as required by the State Requirements for Educational Facilities, at least once every five (5) years the School Board shall arrange for an educational plant survey to be conducted. This plant survey will include data regarding existing facilities and a five (5) year projection of student population. The written report from this survey shall include the following:

Inventory	An inventory of existing ancillary and educational plants and auxiliary facilities.
Student Population	An analysis of past and projected student population.
Capital Outlay	An analysis of expenditures and projected capital outlay funds.
Facilities	Statements of proposed types of facilities, grade structure, and list student capacity.
Funding	A proposed funding plan.

The information obtained from the educational plant survey will be used to generally monitor the progress of the objectives and policies contained in the Educational Element and will provide specific indicators for Objective EDU-1 and Objective EDU-4.

The enforcement or adoption of interlocal agreements shall be explored as a means to help implement components of Objective EDU-2, Objective EDU-3, and Objective EDU-5, and to coordinate the efficient provision of public educational facilities. The performance of any agreements related to these objectives will be monitored as they are set in place.

**Objective EDU-1** policies relating to the maintenance and improvement of specific level of service for public educational facilities, as specified in the Educational Facilities Impact Fee Ordinance, shall be reviewed annually. Each year, the District will compare the official enrollment of the school system with the number of student stations available to determine the current operating LOS.

**Objective EDU-2** will be monitored through the annual inventory and assessment by the Miami-Dade County Public School System of School Board owned property. The number

of new sites shall be reported annually and in the full review period reported in the EAR.

**Objective EDU-3** will be monitored through the review and analysis of the statistics relating to school safety, as compiled annually, by the MDCPS Division of Police. A review and analysis of new and existing reactive and proactive safety and crime prevention programs will also be conducted on an annual basis.

**Objective EDU-4** shall be monitored by the Miami-Dade County Public School System by reporting and reviewing the progress and number of new and existing community oriented programs, including an enrollment analysis, by age and ethnicity, of adult, community and vocational programs.

**Objective EDU-5** shall be monitored by the Miami-Dade County Public School System by reporting the number of educational facility enhancements such as media centers, art/music suite, and science laboratories.

**Objective EDU-6** will be addressed by implementing and tracking the development of appropriate mechanisms, including interlocal agreements and coordination efforts, which serve to expedite the provision or enhancement of public educational facilities.

Monitoring methods may be added or deleted as circumstances and criteria evolve. Any significant modifications to the monitoring process will be dealt with, as appropriate, through the Comprehensive Development Master Plan amendment process.

## **Evaluation**

Available data regarding the various public educational facilities will be used to assess progress on specific objectives. In order to evaluate the level of service being provided, student capacity totals will be reviewed in comparison to student enrollment to determine the status of the current level of service being provided. Similarly, performance in terms of achieving other objectives can also be analyzed by tracking the number of completed capital projects, as well as the development and implementation of other programs associated with each objective. Results of these calculations and measures will be analyzed and changing circumstances and opportunities will be considered.

Any actions, changes or modifications to the Goal, Objectives, and Policies will be explained in accordance with the results of this process of continued monitoring and evaluation. Any necessary changes will be made through the Comprehensive Development Master Plan amendment process.