



FACT SHEET

What is a Disparity Study?

A Disparity Study (“Study”) is an evaluation of the procurement and contracting practices of a governmental entity (i.e. school board, city, county, state, etc.), and its prime contractors/professional consultants particularly in their use of minority and women-owned business enterprises. Under *Richmond v. Croson*, the U.S. Supreme Court requires public entities desirous of utilizing race conscious remedies to show, through a factual predicate, that there is a compelling governmental interest to do so. The disparity study is utilized to develop the factual predicate.

Who is sponsoring the Study?

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

What is the purpose of the Study?

The purpose of the study is to show whether there is a compelling government interest in utilizing race and gender-conscious remedies and how to narrowly tailor any such remedies to any discrimination found. This determination will be determined through several analysis, including a robust statistical analysis consistent with current legal requirements. The Study will determine if a statistical disparity exists in the award of Miami-Dade County Public Schools contracts to minority and women owned businesses (M/WBEs) compared to M/WBEs who are ready, willing, and able to provide goods and services to the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

What guidelines exist to help direct the Study?

The Study will be guided by the United States Supreme Court’s 1989 decision in *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469 (1989), its progeny, and other relevant court cases applicable to the Eleventh Circuit.

Why has The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida decided to conduct the Study?

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida has decided to conduct the Study to accomplish the following:

- ✓ Identify best practices that will help the District build business programs to stimulate the economic growth of local businesses; and
- ✓ Increase participation of minority and women-owned business enterprises on the School’s contracts.

Who is conducting the Phase II Study?

Miller³ Consulting, Inc., a national expert in conducting disparity studies based in Atlanta, Georgia, is conducting the Study. M³ Consulting is reviewing the District's contract records, identifying market area businesses, interviewing key managers, and collect anecdotal accounts from business owners.

How does The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida benefit from a Disparity Study?

Three benefits to the District are:

1. Identify best practices to improve the District's contracting process;
2. Increase number of M/WBE bidders on the District's contracts; and
3. Lower the District's procurement costs.

How will The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida identify available businesses?

The District's consultant, Miller³ Consulting, Inc., is conducting a thorough data collection process. The District's contract and payment records, certification lists, business licenses, Dun & Bradstreet data, Census data, will be used to help identify available businesses.

What industries are being studied?

The study is being conducted in two phases:

- Phase I included industries in construction, and construction and design-related professional services (architecture and engineering, job order contract consultants, etc).
- Phase II will include industries in, other services, non-technical services, professional and technical services, and goods.

What is the time period that will be studied?

For Phase I, the study period was fiscal years beginning July 1, 2006 through fiscal years ending June 30, 2012.

Phase II study period will be fiscal years beginning in July 1, 2012 through fiscal years ending June 30, 2015.

When will the study be completed?

Phase I of the study was completed on June 30, 2013. The Districts anticipates the completion of Phase II in February 2018.

How can local business owners get involved?

Local business owners can get involved in several ways.

- ✓ Participate in a one-on-one business owner personal interview conducted either in person or via telephone
- ✓ Participate in scheduled meetings – focus groups or public forum
- ✓ Complete a business owner survey
- ✓ Provide membership lists from local business and trade associations, upon request

Who should business owners contact to get additional information?

Miller3 Consulting, Inc., can be contacted by telephone at (404) 827-9019 or by email at miller3consulting@miller3group.com.

Miami Dade County School Board Office of Economic Opportunity can be contacted by telephone at (305) 995-1307 or by email at oeo@dadeschools.net.