

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURES

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY: A student who has experienced and reported an incident of battery, harassment, hazing, bullying, kidnapping, physical attack, robbery, sexual offenses, assault, threat or intimidation, or fighting at school.

NEW: A student is eligible for a Hope Scholarship when a student is subjected to harassment relating to, or as a result of, a school district's COVID-19 health protocols, including mask requirements, the separation or isolation of students, or COVID-19 testing requirements, that have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits.

PROCEDURES:

1. When a student experiences an incident, the student and/or parent shall report this incident to the Principal or School Administrator.
2. Upon the receipt of a report of an incident, the Principal shall provide a copy of the [Hope Scholarship Incident Report \(FM-7716\)](#) to the parent of the alleged victim and investigate the incident.
3. Within 24 hours after the receipt of the report, the Principal shall provide a copy of the [Hope Scholarship Incident Report \(FM-7716\)](#) to the parent of the alleged offender and to the Region Office.
4. Upon conclusion of the investigation or within 15 days after the incident was reported, whichever comes first, the Principal shall provide the parent and the Region Office with the [Hope Scholarship Notification Form \(FM-7709\)](#). The Principal shall notify the parent of the Hope Scholarship program and offer the parent the two following choices:
 - The parent may transfer the student to another public school that has capacity to accommodate the transfer request.
 - The parent may request a scholarship to attend an eligible private school, subject to available funding.
5. Schools must indicate that the [Hope Scholarship Notification Form \(FM-7709\)](#) was provided to the parent, for each substantiated and unsubstantiated incident reported, by entering the SCM code '**HN**' in the aligned SCM incident in the Student Case Management System in DSIS.
6. To request a public school transfer, the parent shall submit the completed [Hope Scholarship Transfer Form \(FM-7708\)](#), and a copy of the [Hope Scholarship Notification Form \(FM-7709\)](#), to the student's current school. The Principal or designee shall submit both forms to the appropriate Region Office for processing. Parents will be notified of the decision in writing.
 - If the transfer is approved, the parent will be instructed to withdraw the student from the current school and enroll the student in the approved school.
 - If the transfer is denied, the parent may request to appeal the decision by contacting the Region Office.
7. To request a scholarship to attend an eligible private school, parents may visit www.floridaschoolchoice.org for more information.