

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: UNFUNDED MANDATES FROM THE STATE

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

The 2007-2008 Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (TBRC) for the State of Florida is charged with examining the state budgetary process, the revenue needs and expenditure processes of the State, the appropriateness of the tax structure of the state and governing productivity and efficiency,

The TBRC held a series of public hearings throughout the state between September 20, 2007, and December 5, 2007, providing the general public the opportunity to share their recommendations on taxation and budget. The members have begun to submit individual and committee recommendations for statutory or constitutional proposals for consideration.

One of the most important recommendations that must be made to the TBRC is that the State cannot continue to expect school districts to comply with unfunded mandates given the fiscal challenges that school districts continue to experience. It is important that the School Board of Miami-Dade County voice its concerns to the TBRC with regards to the increasing reliance on funding through local efforts. Education is a state function, and the residents of Miami-Dade County have increasingly been asked for more in order to fund our schools.

Both former Senate President James A. Scott, vice-Chair of the TBRC, and Planning and Budgetary Processes Committee Chair, Carlos Lacasa, have expressed their concerns and desire for public input to their commission. The Miami-Dade School Board should seize the opportunity by adopting a resolution mandating that the State abolish unfunded mandates to school districts, and urging the State legislature to resume its responsibility in funding education. These needed reforms will go a long way in relieving excessive amounts that property owners are forced to provide for education. It is hoped that the County and other municipal governments within Miami-Dade will also support this resolution.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTA PÉREZ:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to:

1. develop and adopt a resolution opposing unfunded State mandates on school districts and the responsibility for funding education be returned to the State; and
2. request that the Miami-Dade County Commission and all other municipal governments also support this resolution.