

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 13-131 OF  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
HONORING DR. CARLOS J. FINLAY ELEMENTARY FOR  
RECEIVING THE "DISPELLING THE MYTH AWARD" FROM  
THE EDUCATION TRUST**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND    COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:               STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

*"Ordinary People, Extraordinary Results"* was the theme of the Education Trust's 2013 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, held this past October. It describes perfectly one of the three schools from across the United States chosen to receive their "Dispelling the Myth Award," which recognizes schools with large populations of low-income and minority students who are performing similarly or better than more affluent students throughout the state.

Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School, the first Florida school selected to receive this prestigious recognition, serves a population that is indeed needy, with 87 percent classified as low-income and over 50 percent still struggling to learn English. Yet these students managed to outperform many of their peers.

The Education Trust recognizes schools whose data results and academic practices dismiss the notion that there is little that schools can do to help students overcome the barriers of poverty and discrimination.

The staff at Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School, led by Principal Cecilia Sanchez, is to be commended for their outstanding strength and resolve to help students succeed academically.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-131 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School for receiving the "Dispelling the Myth" Award from The Education Trust.

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-131  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HONORING DR.  
CARLOS J. FINLAY ELEMENTARY FOR RECEIVING THE "DISPELLING THE  
MYTH AWARD" FROM THE EDUCATION TRUST**

**WHEREAS**, "*Ordinary People, Extraordinary Results*" was the theme of the Education Trust's 2013 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, held this past October; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme perfectly describes one of the three schools to receive the "Dispelling the Myth Award," which recognizes schools nationwide with large populations of low-income and minority students who are performing similarly or better than more affluent students throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School is the first Florida school selected to receive this prestigious recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School serves a population that is classified as 87 percent low income and over 50 percent still struggling to learn English. Yet these students managed to outperform many of their peers; and

**WHEREAS**, The Education Trust recognizes schools whose data results and academic practices dismiss the notion that there is little that schools can do to help students overcome the barriers of poverty and discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the staff at Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School, led by Principal Cecilia Sanchez, is to be commended for their outstanding strength and resolve to help students succeed academically;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 13-131 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, honoring Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School for receiving the "Dispelling the Myth" Award from The Education Trust.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

**Presented this eleventh day of December, A.D. 2013**

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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Secretary

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