

Dr. Marta Pérez, Board Member

SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM OPTIONS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, EVALUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

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

Our district, as a national leader, has received countless awards for instituting outstanding, innovative programs. The creation and promotion of innovative programs for all of our students demonstrates the implementation of our vision of providing educational excellence for all. Following our own lead, we are committed to models of innovation, opportunity and access in Alternative Education.

We are moving in the right direction through the implementation of programs that offer a safe environment for students to serve their outdoor suspensions while affording them the opportunity to remain academically engaged and current with their course work. In addition to alternative pathways that reduce suspension, we are also focusing on leveraging community partnerships, providing transition services and expanding opportunities to ensure that the academic and social needs of this fragile student population are met. These programs will provide students with skills that motivate them to remain in school and pursue non-traditional alternatives. However, there are additional options to explore such as water-related programs, like boating and sailing, which are well-suited to the natural environments of our communities and the numerous bodies of water that are not heavily trafficked on weekdays during the school year.

The challenge often lies in striking a balance between corrective discipline and the appearance of a reward. Nevertheless, we should explore these options as a means to reach students who are seeking the right encouragement to remain focused on their academic progress and future opportunities. Through our strategic efforts, students can modify their behavior, remain in school, and become productive citizens.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of skills programs, including water-related activities, for alternative education program options.