

Dr. Marta Pérez, Member

SUBJECT: STUDENT TESTING

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO
DISTRICT STRATEGIC
PLAN: ENSURE ACHIEVEMENT OF HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS
BY ALL STUDENTS**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools administers a number of assessments to students in addition to the state-mandated tests such as the FCAT. Some of these assessments, i.e., Reading, Mathematics, and Science, are administered throughout the year and given to students in most of the grade levels.

Much time and effort is spent on teaching test-taking skills prior to the FCAT, as well as the pre- and post-tests that are given to students in grades one through ten. Additionally, schools may choose to administer bi-weekly assessments of students in core subjects. These mirror the interim assessments in the same subjects. School Improvement Plans describe a plethora of test-related activities for teachers such as grade/department analysis team meetings in core subjects and examination of assessment reports.

All this testing activity is unfortunately taking away from instructional classroom time and is counter-productive. Teachers should have sufficient time to devote to actual instruction and not have to spend so much time on administering tests.

The joint UTD/M-DCPS Assessments Task Force was created several years ago to provide input on a level of student testing that is realistic, achievable and productive. The task force can be a valuable source of information on the level of testing that is currently taking place and its counter-productive effects. The task force met once in the 2006-2007 school year and its membership of thirteen individuals included representation from the district's Assessment/Data Analysis, Information Technology and Instructional Technology departments, as well as school site administrators and teachers and United Teachers of Dade. It should be reconvened to meet on a regular basis to develop a sound foundation for the district's assessment program.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to reconvene the UTD/M-DCPS Assessments Task Force so it can evaluate the amount of testing that is taking place, both state-mandated, district-mandated, and school-mandated, and report recommended improvements to the board no later than the December school board meeting.