



# VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE

## Office of the Village Manager

### *Village Council*

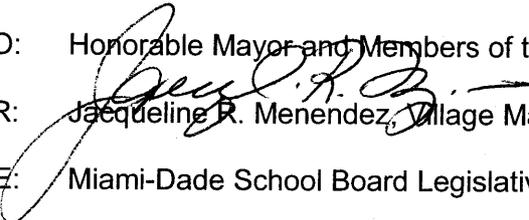
Robert Oldakowski, *Mayor*  
Robert L. Vernon, *Vice Mayor*  
Enrique Garcia  
Steve Liedman  
Jorge E. Mendia  
Thomas Thornton  
Patricia Weinman

### *Village Manager*

Jacqueline R. Menendez

DT: March 7, 2006

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Village Council

FR:  Jacqueline R. Menendez, Village Manager

RE: Miami-Dade School Board Legislative Priorities

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Village Council approve the attached Resolution supporting the Miami-Dade County Public School Legislative Priorities and 2006 State Legislative Program.

### **BACKGROUND**

Ensuring excellence in education and workforce is a top strategic priority to achieve Florida's vision as a global leader in knowledge-based jobs, leading-edge technology and competitive enterprises in the 21st century. The pre-K-20 education system is a key foundation for Florida's future providing the talent base for economic diversification and an economic engine for the knowledge economy, and Florida should continue to move its education system at all levels (pre-K-20) into the top quartile in education quality, student rankings and graduation rates based on national standards. The Miami-Dade School Board believes that funding a high-quality education system is an investment in the ability to compete nationally and globally in the marketplace.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2005-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE,  
FLORIDA; SUPPORTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS AND CALLING UPON THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO  
ACHIEVE A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEM.**

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution provides that the education of children is a fundamental value of the people of Florida and a paramount duty of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution creates a clear mandate for a uniform and high quality education system and for the State to make adequate provision for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, Florida is one of the leaders in the nation in mandating public school educational accountability measures and The School Board of Miami-Dade County has improved its overall grade from C to B in the state accountability system; and

WHEREAS, the number of schools in Miami-Dade County, Florida, receiving a letter grade of A increased to 48% – highest percentage ever – despite tougher state standards and the number of schools receiving a repeat grade of F was reduced by 66% to 3; and

WHEREAS, the number of third graders considered proficient readers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools rose to 61% – the highest percentage ever – and 1,814 fewer third graders are at risk of being held back due to reading scores; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has reorganized its central office and eliminated more than 500 positions, freeing up \$38 million for other educational needs; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, has constructed 18,000 new student seats to address overcrowding using local funds – more than three times the number planned by prior administrations– although the majority of state Classrooms for Kids allocations have gone to school districts without documented capital outlay needs; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, will need approximately \$136 million in new monies above current funding levels to continue these initiatives, but the recent change in District Cost Differential could reduce the district's share of annual funding by as much as \$78 million; and

WHEREAS, Florida employers consistently rank improving education and workforce development as top concerns to the success of their business, and a highly qualified, trained workforce is critical to strengthening our business climate; and

WHEREAS, the education system needs to respond to the workforce needs of Florida's employers, including programs that expand career academies in high schools, aligning career education with industry standards and workforce demands, and expanding options for students to continue their education and enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, ensuring excellence in education and workforce is a top strategic priority to achieve Enterprise Florida's vision of Florida as a global leader in knowledge-based jobs, leading-edge technology and competitive enterprises in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the pre-K-20 education system is a key foundation for Florida's future providing the talent base for economic diversification and an economic engine for the knowledge economy, and Florida should continue to move its education system at all levels (pre-K-20) into the top quartile in education quality, student rankings and graduation rates based on national standards; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Key Biscayne believes that funding a high-quality education system is an investment in the ability to compete nationally and globally in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Key Biscayne believes that adequate funding is needed to achieve a high-quality education system measured by student achievement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** That the Village of Key Biscayne supports the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' 2006 legislative initiative.

**Section 2.** **Effective Date.** That this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR ROBERT OLDAKOWSKI

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CONCHITA H. ALVAREZ, CMC, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
VILLAGE ATTORNEY