

# 2015/16 NEW ACHIEVEMENTS @MDCPS



Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) ongoing tradition of innovation and achievement has garnered international, national and state honors. These include the 2012 Broad Prize for Urban Education, the 2012 Florida Department of Education's District Data Leader of the Year Award, the 2014 Florida and National Superintendent of the Year, WalletHub's ranking the District #1 in the nation for its rate of return on educational investment and 2015 Best Communities for Music Education Designation by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

This year, M-DCPS added these accomplishments to its growing list of accolades:

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- 1 Graduation Rates at All-Time High:** Miami-Dade's 2014-2015 graduation rate reached a record high 78.1 percent, exceeding the state average. Over 21,000 students graduated; 94 percent planned to attend college.
- 2 Students Shine on National Assessment:** M-DCPS students outperformed other large urban districts in the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exams in Reading.
- 3 AP Exam Passing Rates and Enrollment Increased:** For the fifth year in a row, M-DCPS increased Advanced Placement exam passing rates and AP enrollment, earning Miami-Dade a spot on the College Board's 6th Annual Honor Roll.
- 4 High School Seniors Excel in SAT Exams:** M-DCPS seniors outshined their counterparts in Florida and increased scores in Reading, Mathematics and Writing on their College Board SAT exams.
- 5 Leader in National Magnet Schools of America Awards:** M-DCPS received 37 National Magnet Merit Awards, outperforming all other school districts nationwide for the fifth straight year. This year, the District added 55 new magnet/choice programs to the already impressive list of highly sought out programs, bringing the total to 500.
- 6 Nationally Ranked High Schools:** Design & Architecture Senior High School (DASH) was rated among the top 20 schools in the U.S. and second in Florida by U.S. News & World Report. Four Miami-Dade schools ranked in Florida's Top 10 and seven schools placed in Florida's Top 20.
- 7 #1 Career Academy:** The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism at Alonzo & Tracy Mourning Senior High was named the nation's #1 Career Academy by the National Academy Foundation.

## DIGITAL CONVERGENCE

- 8 Digital Convergence Expansion:** 43K digital devices were distributed to students, bringing the total number to 104K. The devices enhance the learning experience & complement the 11,620 interactive boards previously installed in classrooms and 45 million sq. ft. of physical space configured for Wi-Fi connectivity.
- 9 Mobile App Upgrade:** M-DCPS' mobile app was upgraded, now allowing parents & students to view class schedules, bus routes, daily grades, report cards, and school breakfast & lunch menus.
- 10 High-Tech School Buses:** Wi-Fi on school buses provided students additional opportunities to study and research while riding the bus. A GPS school bus tracking system gave parents and students the ability to track the whereabouts of their assigned bus.

## INITIATIVES

- 11 School Attendance Prioritized:** iAttend was launched to spotlight the importance of attending school regularly. The initiative includes closer monitoring and reporting of student absences, calls to parents, and more direct measures including home visits, counseling & referrals to outside agencies.
- 12 Rethinking Discipline:** As an alternative to outdoor suspension, 10 success centers opened as a way to implement effective discipline practices without depriving students of valuable instructional time.
- 13 Emphasis on Core Values:** The Values Matter campaign highlighted a different core value each month: Citizenship, Cooperation, Fairness, Honesty, Integrity, Kindness, Pursuit of Excellence, Respect, Responsibility.
- 14 Digital Citizenship:** M-DCPS promoted the responsible use of social media among students, parents and educators. The Digital Citizenship campaign reinforces the importance of utilizing social media and technology for enhanced learning opportunities.

## VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

- 15 School Board Spearheads Creation of Biliiteracy Seal:** Following the School Board's creation of a Biliiteracy Seal, the Florida Legislature approved a landmark State Seal of Biliiteracy Program to recognize students who study and master World Languages.
- 16 Excellence in Financial Reporting:** For the 31st consecutive year, the School Board was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. & Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- 17 Prestigious Educational Leadership Awards:** Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho was awarded the 2016 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education for "exemplary leadership in raising standards and improving graduation rates in a complex urban district." He was also named the 2016 Magnet Schools of America Superintendent of the Year for his efforts to increase magnet/choice programs in M-DCPS.
- 18 National Assessment Governing Board Appointment:** U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan appointed Carvalho to the National Assessment Governing Board, which examines the progress of education and its impact on student performance.

## STELLAR WORKFORCE

- 19 School Leader Recognized Nationally:** Martin T. Reid, principal of the award-winning Arthur & Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts, was named the 2016 Magnet Schools of America Principal of the Year.
- 20 Veteran Teacher Nominated for Top State Award:** Miami Norland Senior's Precious Symonette was selected as a finalist for the 2015-16 Florida Teacher of the Year. She was named the 2017 Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year in January.
- 21 Four Educators Receive Honors from Florida Art Education Association (FAEA):** Patricia Cummins, recently retired from Palmetto Elementary, won the elementary school award; Lourdes Fuller of Shenandoah Middle won the middle school award; Beth Goldstein of Miami Springs Senior is the Florida Art Educator of the Year; and Dr. Miguel A. Balsera, principal of Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer, won the FAEA Principal of the Year award.

## GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (GOB) & ECONOMIC IMPACT

- 22 School Upgrades:** So far, 75 GOB projects have been completed in 2015-2016, with \$132.2M spent on capital & technology. This is the largest investment in a single year since the GOB's approval in 2012, bringing the total investment in our schools to nearly \$302M.
- 23 Community Impact:** 145 Small & Micro Businesses have been certified to do work with the District since July 2015; 137 are Minority/Women Business Enterprises. Overall, M-DCPS has certified 782 Small & Micro firms, and 862 Minority/Women Business Enterprise firms, ready to work in our schools.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

- 24 Accreditation:** Miami-Dade Schools Police Department (MDSPPD) received Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. After a rigorous process, MDSPPD has achieved this coveted law enforcement accredited status by complying with 246 standards representing the best practices in law enforcement operations and administration.

## WELLNESS

- 25 Nationally Recognized Physical Activity Programs:** 22 schools received Let's Move! Active Schools National Awards from First Lady Michelle Obama, more than any other large urban district in the U.S.
- 26 Innovative Physical Education:** New athletic programs include high-tech physical fitness centers that focus on multi-sensory education and Geocaching for middle school students.
- 27 Student, Employee, Community Focus:** For the first time, free vaccinations were offered in 150 schools and a new health clinic opened at Miami Northwestern Senior High School to serve the community.
- 28 Race for Education:** More than 2,000 teachers, students, parents and community supporters rallied together in support of education at the inaugural Superintendent's 5K Challenge, intended to promote health and wellness in our schools and community.
- 29 Healthy Food Initiatives Debuted:** The District launched the Lean & Green brand of healthy, new food selections featuring popular items such as Naked Juice fruit smoothies, high protein Greek yogurt, vegetarian entrees and wraps. New compostable and biodegradable round plates were also introduced this year.

## SOUND FINANCIAL PRACTICES

- 30 Top Governmental Budget Award:** M-DCPS was honored with the coveted Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the GFOA, its highest honor and the only national recognition possible in governmental budgeting.

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