



# Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

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Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D.

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May 23, 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Student attendance is a means of improving student performance and is critical in raising student achievement, which supports our mission for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. I have every expectation that all students will be "model students." This means that they are expected to be present at school each and every day, attend class as scheduled, arrive to school and class(es) on time, demonstrate appropriate comportment/behavior, and a readiness to learn.

On April 18, 2007, The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida approved a **new** Student Attendance Board Rule (6Gx13- 5A-1.041) which will be in effect for the 2007-2008 school year. This rule may be accessed on the District's website at <http://www2.dadeschools.net/schoolboard/rules/Chapt5/5a-1.041.pdf>, and serves to strengthen accountability for parents, students, and schools and defines excusable absences.

One critical change is that all absences will initially be reported as unexcused until appropriate documentation is submitted as outlined in the Student Attendance Board Rule. Additionally, grades and credits will be withheld for excessive unexcused absences, that is, five (5) or more absences in a semester course and/or ten (10) absences in an annual course, pending action taken by each school's respective *Attendance Review Committee*.

The *Attendance Review Committee* at each school will review student attendance and offer guidance and support to parents and students. Students will also be provided with prescribed activities that are designed to minimize the loss of instructional time, thereby regaining the opportunity to earn annual academic and/or semester course grade.

Working together, all of our students can be model students who achieve global standards. I look forward to celebrating our collective success in the 2007-2008 school year. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Rudolph F. Crew, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

RFC/mso  
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cc: Superintendent's Cabinet  
Regional Superintendents