



NEWS

DISTRICT 1 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DR. GALLON ADDRESSES OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS AND STUDENT SUCCESS CENTERS

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF DR. STEVE GALLON III

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At the February 15, 2017, regular meeting of the Miami-Dade County School Board, Dr. Steve Gallon III will advance an agenda item that seeks to clarify the implementation, utilization, and effectiveness of the District's Student Success Centers, as well as their alignment with District policy.

Prior to the commencement of the 2015-2016 school year, it was determined that the District would eliminate the practice of out-of-school suspensions through the Rethink Discipline Initiative. As a part of that initiative, Success Centers were established as one of the alternative options to eliminate the practice of out-of-school suspension. Eleven Success Centers are located throughout the District. The Student Success Centers seek to "provide an educational setting and safe haven for referred students, ages 11 and older, exhibiting behavior and committing habitual infractions of the Code of Student Conduct."

The Centers were also established to engage affected students in learning rather than exposing them to an increased potential for delinquent behavior; implement corrective strategies such as counseling; address and mitigate the disproportionate number of Black and Hispanic males that were suspended; and provide a districtwide, strategic response to addressing the widely-debated school-to-prison pipeline.

"In light of the implementation of both the elimination of outdoor suspension and the implementation of Success Centers, there have been issues raised by various stakeholders. This item seeks to ensure that those issues are addressed and that our practices align with Board Policy," Dr. Gallon said.

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