



2016

LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA



Dear Colleagues:

As we prepared the Miami-Dade County League of Cities' 2016 Legislative Agenda, we were reminded of the many issues that affect our cities, towns, and villages. We were also reminded of the corresponding challenges faced by our elected officials in establishing policy that touch upon a vast number of undertakings. Indeed, Miami-Dade County is a diverse metropolis with a myriad of needs.

However, rather than including what oftentimes tends to be an overwhelming agenda, not by design but by necessity, we decided to focus our efforts this year on transportation and education. As a region, we all agree that one of the most crucial issues affecting Miami-Dade County is transportation. We can also agree that education continues to be a cornerstone for our children's well-being and the future of the communities we serve.

For these reasons, the MDCLC's 2016 Legislative Agenda seeks to garner support around two basic – but far from simple – issues, namely transportation and education. As MDCLC's incoming President and Legislative Committee Chair, it is my hope that we will unite our collective voices and concentrate our strengths to have the greatest impact possible in these areas.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Francis X. Suarez
City of Miami

STATE LEVEL

- The Miami-Dade County League of Cities supports legislation that provides a funding mechanism for the Florida Department of Transportation's acquisition of an 11-mile section of CSX railroad track in central Miami-Dade for commuter rail use. Such funding mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, a percentage of Miami-Dade Expressway Authority's un-obligated revenues and a percentage of license fees generated by Miami-Dade County. The Miami-Dade County League of Cities also encourages Miami-Dade County to consider water transportation as part of the comprehensive plan to alleviate traffic congestion.
- Florida Senate Bill SB 1372
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/1372/BillText/Filed/PDF>
- Florida House Bill HB 1377
https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/1377/BillText/_/PDF

COUNTY LEVEL

- The Miami-Dade County League of Cities encourages Miami-Dade County to make a commitment – during FY 2015-2016 – to a funding mechanism and form of modality for the following four (4) transit corridors: "Bay Link," including the Cities of Miami and Miami Beach; 27th Avenue North Corridor; US-1 Extension; and East-West Corridor.
- In addition, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities supports legislation that accelerates phasing out the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust's clawback provision, currently set at a five-year phase out period, with the excess revenues being used for municipal bonds.

CITY LEVEL

- The Miami-Dade County League of Cities encourages Miami-Dade County municipalities to create transportation trust funds, such funds to be used by way of example for transit station capital improvements and construction to service transit corridors once they are operational.
- City of Miami Transportation Trust Fund Legislation

2016 Miami-Dade County Public School State Legislative Priority Positions

GOAL STATEMENT

The Florida Legislature should establish a five-year strategic plan to restore, stabilize, and increase funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to achieve at least the national average in per pupil expenditures to provide the highest quality education and to enable all of our students to be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY POSITIONS

FUNDING:

Increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the total per student funding by five percent annually.*

Revise the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) proceedings to include:*

- Proof of the property owner consent of an appeal;
- Limit appeal rescheduling to only one for good cause;
- Payment of interest at the market rate;
- Require the VAB to finish all appeals and certify the final tax roll to the property appraiser by June 1st of each year;
- Allow school districts to audit the VAB and the Property Appraiser (PA); and
- Require a review by the state of PA's process when the PA's estimate on July 1st is two percent or more than the state estimate for three or more consecutive years.

Modify the penalty for non-compliance with the constitutional class size requirement to be based on the school-wide average for all public schools.

Provide school districts funding to cover the full cost of offering dual enrollment courses through incentive funding to school districts/schools that offer such programs and have successful completion of dual enrollment courses by students.

Support funding to offer an extended school year beyond 180 days for all students.

Amend F.S. 1011.61 to fully fund programs taken by students beyond the 1.0 FTE cap or 25 hours a week such as virtual classes outside the traditional school day and year.*

Eliminate the statutory provision requiring the passage of end-of-course assessment for funding purposes.

ACADEMICS

Establish a Seal of Biliteracy to recognize students who have attained proficiency in English and one or more other world languages.

CAPITAL FUNDING:

Oppose any diversion of Local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy revenue from traditional public schools to charter schools.*

SAFETY:

Amend F.S. 514.011 to include a portable pool used exclusively for the purpose of providing swimming lessons or related instruction in support of an educational program provided by the local school board as a "private pool" for purposes of the exemptions provided under s. 514.0113.*

FACILITIES:

Provide local school districts the flexibility to use the Florida Building Code in lieu of the State Requirements for Educational Facilities.

Modify the utilization factor for K-8 centers as follows: 100% of FISH for the elementary school student stations, and 95% for the middle school student stations.



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