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**School Board Budget Workshop**  
**April 1, 2009**

**Fiscal Impact of SB 1908 on Broward County high School Grades**

Senate Bill 1908 is a new grading system that will impact school grades in 2009-10. 50% of a school's grade will be based on the existing FCAT scores of students and the other 50% will be based on:

- School's graduation rate.
- Participation and performance of students in AP, IB, AICE, Dual Enrollment and industry certification courses/programs.
- Post-secondary readiness of students as measured by the SAT ACT, or CPT.
- School's "at-risk" graduation rate.
- Performance of students on statewide end of course assessments, as they become available.
- Growth or decline in the elements above from year to year.

The implementation of this new grading system will require the School District to spend more money on teacher training, textbooks, AP exams, dual enrollment, industry certification and instructional material. The estimated fiscal impact to schools is approximately \$10 million. This is an unfunded mandate by the state. The Broward Public Schools would have to pick up the entire expenditure. In a time when the School District is being cut by \$160 million, it is very bad timing to implement this very expensive new grading system.

Senate Bill 1908 will be using the National Graduation Average (NGA) rate for graduation, which is not in sync with the state's rate, and will drop the School District's graduation rate. Therefore, schools will be graded lower and student's futures will be hurt. At this time the Technical Assistance Paper from the DOE relating to the final grade calculations has not been delivered to school districts.

The Broward County Public Schools believes in higher rigor and increasing the graduation rate. Over the past several years AP courses have been increased. Approximately \$9 million has been spent adding more AP courses, purchasing materials and training teachers. The Superintendent stated he is adamantly opposed to this model being shoved down this school districts throat with the \$10 million price tag. The Superintendent and Board Members are asking legislators to delay this and other unfunded mandates for a couple of years in order to get through this financial crisis.

School Board Members requested that the unfunded mandates, including Senate Bill 1908, be discussed at the town meeting scheduled at the end of April, to inform the community why the school's budget is so distressed. Also inform the community how much money has already been spent to increase the rigor in Broward County Schools over the past several years.

Several of the School Board Members do not want to go forward with Senate Bill 1908 because the implementation and the training of teachers costs may cause the school district to possibly lay off employees.

The Superintendent has prepared the organization for the impact of Senate Bill 1908 and has gone ahead with the scheduling of students in AP courses, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. Students should carefully select alternatives and pick courses that would help them get into college. Board Members stated that it is extremely important that staff gives direction to guidance and to parents regarding the ramifications of their choices and to make informed decisions on the courses their students are selecting.

The Superintendent stated that the school district is on hold until Tallahassee completes their budget. Worse scenario is that schools would have to reschedule students.

The material for this topic can be found on the eAgenda April 1, 2009 workshop.

### **Senate Draft Budget**

Staff came before the Board to inform them about the Senate Budget draft from the State. Money has been cut from all categories and holes in the budget have been filled with the federal stimulus money. For example, the stimulus bill would give money to Title 1 schools. That amount was reduced in the Senate Budget using the stimulus money to fill that hole. In essence the State took all the stimulus dollars to balance their budget and put it into categorical funds, which the school district cannot spend as needed and do what is best for children.

The budget will now go before the House. Staff will continue to update the Board Members on the States budget.

Material for this topic can be found on the eAgenda April 1, 2009 workshop.

### **Response to Intervention**

Due to time restraints Response to Intervention was rescheduled to the April 16, 2009 workshop.

JFN:jd