



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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September 22, 2023

DELIVERY VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL, READ RECEIPT

Dear Governing Board Chair and School Leader:

SUBJECT: VOTER APPROVED REFERENDUM - CHARTER SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

This letter provides direction to District-sponsored charter schools regarding the close-out of the 2018 vote approved referendum and information about distribution of the first year of the 2022 vote approved referendum.

2018 VOTER APPROVED REFERENDUM

Tax Collections: The tax collection from the 2022-2023 fiscal year (FY) resulted in a shortfall of \$89,722. As advised, in the event of a shortfall, the funds will need to be recovered from each charter school, proportionally. To this end, the adjustment will be made to the 2023-2024 allocation of the 2022 voter-approved referendum. The adjustment will be reflected, by school, in the 2023-2024 Referendum Allocation Report.

Contingency/Unspent Funds: Based on the unaudited Expenditure Reports received from the schools for the 2022-2023 FY, most schools have reported funds that were not spent by the close of the 2022-2023 FY. To ensure compliance and proper accounting, the District strongly recommends that charter schools expend these funds as soon as possible but before the receipt of the first distribution of the 2022 voter-approved referendum funds. Be advised that the funds carried over should be expended on allowable uses and restricted to eligible personnel employed during 2022-2023 FY.

2022 VOTER APPROVED REFERENDUM

The District has not yet received referendum funds for the 2023-2024 FY. However, it is anticipated that the funds will be received within the next couple months. Therefore, payments are expected to begin on or shortly after December 1, 2023.

Estimated Allocation: The estimated distribution will be **\$1,449.36** per FTE. This allocation was calculated using unweighted projected FTE for the 2023-2024 school year, with charter schools receiving a proportional share of the total funds that the District estimates it will collect based on the Miami-Dade County Tax Roll. The Actual allocations will be provided to all schools following the official October 2023 FTE Survey. It is anticipated that the 2023-2024 Certification Affidavit will be properly executed and submitted to the District and monthly payments will commence in December 2023. The first payment will consist of a lump sum to account for months back to July 2023 and then distributed in equal monthly payments thereafter.

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Allowable Uses: These referendum funds can only be used for purposes approved by voters in 2022. As the language differs slightly from the previous referendum, for your convenience, the exact language of the 2022 ballot question is highlighted below:

*“Shall the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, levy one (1) mill of ad valorem taxes for school operational purposes to continue **improving compensation for teachers and instructional personnel** and to **improve student safety and security** for public schools, **including charter schools**, with oversight by a Citizen Advisory Committee, beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2027?”*

Please be aware that the allocation amount is an estimate based on the tax collection history. In July 2024, if it is determined that funds were allocated to charters in excess of their proportional share of actual collections, charter schools will be required to return the excess funds. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that the charter schools set aside a 5% contingency in the event that funds need to be returned to the District at the end of the year.

Required Documentation: Aligned with the documentation and reporting process from last fiscal year, charter schools will be required to sign and submit a 2023-2024 Certification Affidavit attesting to: eligibility to receive disbursement, compliance with the allowable use of the funds, declare the categorical allocation of expenditures, adhere to reporting requirements, and proper recordkeeping. The documentation and reporting process will be relayed shortly under separate cover along with information about technical support sessions.

Should you require additional information about the distribution of the 2022 voter approved referendum funds, please feel free to contact Dr. Dwight A. Bernard, Assistant Superintendent, Charter School Compliance and Support, at 305 995-1403 or dbernard@dadeschools.net or Ms. Michelle Denis, Executive Director, Financial Management, Charter School Compliance and Support, at mdenis@dadeschools.net.

Sincerely,



Tiffanie A. Pauline
Chief Strategy Officer
Office of Strategic Planning & Initiatives

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cc: General Counsel
Mr. Jose Bueno
Mr. Ron Y. Steiger
Dr. Dwight A. Bernard
Ms. Martha M. Diaz
Ms. Daisy Naya