

RESEARCH BRIEF

Department of Research Services

January 2001

REPORT SUMMARY ON STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS BY THE METRO-DADE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Department of Research Services contracted with the Research Division of the Metro-Dade County Planning Department, and subsequently prepared a set of enrollment projections for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). The interested reader is referred to the report *Student Enrollment Projections by Metro-Dade Planning Department*, which is available upon request from the Department of Research Services. The purpose of the present *Report Summary* is to communicate the technical contents of the Metro-Dade report. Selected highlights from the summary report are as follows:

- ! By the year 2005, M-DCPS can anticipate an enrollment of approximately 395,000 students for grades PK to twelve (approximately 58 percent Hispanic, 30 percent Black and 12 percent White/Other).
- ! The area west of the Turnpike Extension from County Line Road in the north to 184th Street in the south will probably absorb most of the projected increase of 35,000 students. The area of North Miami Beach and the area surrounding the Opa-Locka airport will also continue to grow at an accelerated rate.
- ! By the year 2015, Metro-Dade projects that there will be 431,000 students of which 64 percent are Hispanic, 28 percent Black and 8 percent White/Other.

An analysis of the projections and their impact on M-DCPS revealed that Metro-Dade has projected a very modest increase based on the techniques they utilized and not compensating for the census undercount. Despite this, the State's projections are even lower than Metro-Dade's since local events such as immigration rates are not factored in, and the Florida Department of Education uses these State projections as the basis for planning and forecasting. Based solely on enrollment growth and without consideration for schools that are being constructed, planned or designed, ***it is estimated that M-DCPS will need in the next 15 years 13 new elementary schools, almost 19 middle schools, and 12 new high schools.*** The timetable for this increase:

- * 20 additional schools and 1,838 extra teachers in 2005 as compared to 2000
- * 16 additional schools and 1,361 extra teachers in 2010 as compared to 2005
- * 7 additional schools and 549 extra teachers in 2015 as compared to 2010

This information should be considered by staff as part of their effort to plan effectively for future programs, construction, and fiscal needs. Please contact Ms. Carol Cortes, Deputy Superintendent, Management and Accountability, at 305-995-2940 or Mr. Dale Romanik, Director, Department of Research Services at 305-995-7504 if additional information is needed regarding this report.