

## 2013-2014 Superintendent's Message

Miami-Dade Public Schools (M-DCPS), along with our community, state and nation have begun to turn a corner out of one of the worst recessions in recent history. As Superintendent, I am optimistic that the modest financial recovery will serve to bolster our continued efforts to deliver high quality educational programs to all students as our community's tax rolls begin to increase and the Florida Legislature has provided increased funding for education.

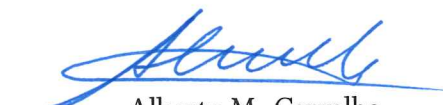
Over the past five years M-DCPS has held fast to our guiding principles to prioritize student achievement, protect the classroom and our high-quality workforce, and to ensure the long-term fiscal stability of the District, allowing those in schools to focus on instruction and the success of our students. The dividends paid as a result of this commitment to efficiency through innovation are remarkable. Our schools posted the highest graduation rates recorded in recent history; our student performance outpaced that of the state on many indicators; our administrators, teachers, and students received many state and national awards; we continue to lead the nation in Advanced Placement success by minority students; we won the coveted Broad Prize for Urban Education; and for the first time 100 percent of our high schools received a performance grade of "C" or better.

In 2013-2014, we will continue to innovate by investing in high quality digital content and technology. This school year we will complete our wireless initiative, funded primarily through private investments and federal matching E-Rate funds, which will ensure every school has Internet capacity. We will invest in significant professional development for our teachers to ensure they are adept at delivering outstanding instruction in the new digital paradigm. We will transform the delivery of middle school mathematics through the launch of iPrep Math, and will continue to expand our menu of choice offerings including Cambridge, dual enrollment options, iPrep Academies, and a variety of magnet programs at every level.

Last year, as part of this message, I acknowledged that after years of little to no capital funding from the state we would need to examine options for generating additional revenue to address on-going capital improvement needs. As I pen this year's message I am grateful that through the courage and conviction of the Chair and Members of the School Board and the overwhelming support of the business community and voters of Miami-Dade we are now able to meet our capital needs. Through the passage of a \$1.2 Billion school construction bond by a nearly 70 percent margin, we will be able to improve every single school in M-DCPS, providing students with the cutting edge educational environments that every student is entitled to in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America.

The coming year will not be without challenges however, and as in the past, we continue to take a long range view of our financial condition and prepare accordingly. Much of the increased money provided by Tallahassee came down as categorical funding, thus limiting our fiscal flexibility. In addition, as health care costs rise we continue to work with our labor organizations to identify ways to maintain affordable options for all employees. Finally, as we watched the issues surrounding Federal sequestration unfold in Congress, the District took a fiscally conservative approach and set aside resources to deal with the projected impact. Through careful planning and focused commitment throughout the budget development process we are once again prepared to minimize the impact of these limitations on our core function of teaching and learning. As always, this budget, as presented is a carefully crafted document developed to ensure optimal return on investment and therefore, is presented as a complete product. Any modification would likely have a domino effect potentially impacting jobs and programs.

This budget reflects the collective input of a broad cross-section of stakeholders and the work of some of the finest financial services professionals in any sector, public or private. The FY 2013-2014 Budget is one that I am extremely proud of and one that provides a clear pathway to continued financial stability and academic success.



Alberto M. Carvalho  
Superintendent of Schools