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A digital divide splits students with technology access from those without

Help us bring wireless technology to the classroom

As we look to the future, we envision every student learning in digital classrooms where traditional books are replaced with various forms of electronic media. As of 2015, any new textbooks adopted for use in Florida's public schools must be digital; yet many Miami-Dade County public schools lack wireless technology to accommodate this.

The Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc., a direct-support organization for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, aims to raise \$7 million by January 31, 2012 to qualify for federal matching funds for wireless improvements in our schools. Every dollar you donate will be multiplied by 10 for an ultimate goal of \$70 million.

Together, we can bridge the digital divide. It is our moral imperative to do so, giving all students equal access to technology and equal opportunity for success in the global society and marketplace. Please help by donating today! Thank you.





helpdadeschools.com

The Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc. • 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Suite 931 • Miami, Florida 33132

NEWS ALERT



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Office of Public Relations • 1450 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33132 • 305-995-1126 • dadeschools.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, November 23, 2011

CONTACT: John Schuster 305-995-1126

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOLS LAUNCHES BRING WIRELESS TO THE CLASSROOM FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO SECURE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

Miami-Dade Superintendent of Schools, Alberto M. Carvalho announced that The Foundation for New Education Initiatives, the nonprofit organization supporting Miami-Dade Schools, has launched a campaign called "Bringing Wireless to the Classroom," to raise \$7 million by January 31, 2012. These funds will be matched by federal dollars at a rate of \$100 for every \$10 raised locally, yielding up to \$70 million to fund needed technology improvements in Miami-Dade's public schools.

The District's goal is that all schools will be connected by Wi Fi by the 2012-2013 school year. The Foundation is urgently seeking contributions from local businesses and private citizens to meet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) E-Rate program's January 31, 2012 deadline to have the local funding in place. "The opportunity to receive such a significant infusion of funds to be used specifically for technology upgrades in our schools," said Carvalho, "not only represents a chance to enhance the learning environment for every child, but would serve to spur private sector job creation as contracts are issued to perform the work associated with the installation and maintenance of digital upgrades districtwide."

School district administrators estimate that it costs about \$200,000 to improve the wireless technology in each school. Digital enhancements provided with these funds would expedite the provision of essential improvements, particularly in older schools where infrastructure does not easily support hardwired devices or broadband connectivity.

"The potential return on investment goes far beyond the 10 to 1 funding match," said Carvalho, "the real ROI is the exponential increase in learning opportunities we can provide to our students and the jobs we can create in our community." Every school in Miami-Dade qualifies for the federal matching funds.

"Going forward, we envision digital classrooms which will serve as vibrant learning laboratories facilitated by great teaching," said Carvalho. "In order to make this happen, we must leverage this investment opportunity so that we may afford our students' access to 24/7 anytime, anywhere learning; cloud computing; and powerful research and communication tools which will open virtual windows across this district for every child who enters an M-DCPS school. I encourage everyone to make an investment in our community's tomorrow, by making an investment in our students today."

To contribute online, visit <u>www.helpdadeschools.com</u> click the donate button, and request that the funds be given to the "Give Kids the World – A World of Technology" program.



Dear Community Stakeholder:

Board of Directors

Natacha Munilla Bill O'Dowd

Dr. Penny Shaffer

The best companies know it: innovation is the key to growth and prosperity, and they are willing to invest in it. Innovation is key to excellence in public education as well, and like a successful company, we must be willing to invest in our children's future. To help fund the innovations essential to preparing our students for success in the global society and market of the Third Millennium, the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, created The Foundation for New Initiatives in 2008.

The Foundation's most urgent initiative, "Bringing Wireless Technology to the Classroom," aims to raise some \$7 million to bring wireless technology to our classrooms. Through the federal "E-rate" program, Washington will match that number by 10 to 1, for an additional yield of up to \$70 million. That's right, for every \$100 in donations the federal government will provide a \$1,000 match. As of 2015, any new textbooks adopted for use in Florida's public schools must be digital, yet many M-DCPS schools lack wireless technology to accommodate this. The success of this Foundation initiative will go a long way toward closing the digital divide that separates students with ready access to technology from those without.

In these tight economic times, funding for education from the state and other traditional sources has been significantly reduced. Unwilling to allow schools and students to feel the impact of these funding cuts, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is working diligently to provide our students with world-class educational opportunities, but we need help to continue to develop and implement programs serving more than 340,000 students. Attached is a description of Foundation initiatives. The agenda is ambitious but vital to our common future. With your support we can ensure success.

Visit helpdadeschools.com for more information or to donate online or contact Ms. Diana Venturini, Director, Office of Community Engagement, at 305-995-1756, or at dventurini@dadeschools.net. Our children are counting on your support.

Sincerely,

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and

Chair, The Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc.

AMC:hr L564 Attachments

cc:





Donor Information



To pay by credit card, visit helpdadeschools.com and click on the red "Make a Tax- Deductible Donation Today" button.

To pay by check, complete the form below and return it to The Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc., c/o Miami-Dade County Public Schools, ATTN: Ms. Diana Venturini, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Suite 776, Miami, FL 33132.

Make checks payable to: The Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc./Technology.

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May we publicly acknowledge your donation? ____Yes or ____No

For more information, please contact Ms. Diana Venturini at 305-995-1756 or dventurini@dadeschools.net.

\$7 Million x 10 \$7 Million x 10 \$70 Million



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...and you did!