

March 12, 2019: Education Panel

Thank you to **Sylvia Godoy (MDCPS)**, **Vanessa Thorrington PhD. (Education Manager, Our Kids)**, **Andrea Arrechea (Educate Tomorrow)**, and **Maria de Castro (First Star Academy, University of Miami)**.

Attached below are the following references:

- Services provided by the JJSO (Juvenile Justice Support Office) of MDCPS (Miami Dade County Public Schools);
- Important acronyms;
- Codes which flag children in the dependency system;
- Special Education designations; and
- School withdrawal codes.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools:

- There is an over-representation of foster youth in special ed. There is an over representation of minorities in foster care. There is an over representation of minorities in special ed.
- **MDCPS has an office on the 4th floor of the Children's Courthouse.**
- They conduct education reviews, advice, and assist with selecting the appropriate programs for our students.
- They facilitate conferences, provide feedback, and make recommendations.
- See the attachment for all the ways this office assists GALs and the youth in the dependency and/or delinquency systems.
- **If you are the GAL on a case and the child is having an I.E.P. meeting, you must attend! They need your input.**
 - The more people present at an IEP (Individualized Educational Plan) conference, the better! An IEP is the end-game. (It is written during the conference, and your role in the preparation is crucial).
 - If a parent's rights have not been terminated, they must attend the meeting and sign. If they refuse to give consent, you can take that information back to court. Foster parents are encouraged to attend and can sign.
 - *If you have a child in licensed care who needs an IEP, you should take the Surrogate Parent training, so you can also sign.*
 - **SST (Student Support Team)** meeting is held at the school to discuss a behavioral plan and what questions to ask so an effective plan is written. **A child can have a behavioral plan without an IEP!**
 - There are many supports in place, and there is a process before a child is "labeled." Previously children were given a conduct or behavior diagnosis, then tested and placed.
- There are no alternative schools in elementary school. That is only for middle and high school.
- Children in the dependency system are prioritized to expedite the process.
- FDLRS is for children age 0-5.
- **You cannot share school records with a third party.**
- The parent portal has only 1 pin. Foster parents should be encouraged to share the pin with you or the child can give you access to the student portal.

- **RTI (Response to Intervention)** starts at the least restrictive level.
- **504 Accommodation Plans** are put into place when a student does not qualify for special education but needs support to have success in the classroom.
- **Surrogate parents** are used when a parent's rights have been terminated and the child is in a group home, shelter, etc., but not in a licensed foster home. A surrogate parent cannot be assigned if a parent's rights have not been terminated unless a judge decides it is necessary. (And for that you need a court order.) You cannot be a surrogate parent if you work for MDCPS. Trainings for surrogate parents are held every 6 months.
- **If a school calls you to pick up a child from school because the child is out of control, call Sylvia or Dr. Thorrington. Taking a child out of school for this reason is denying the child access to curriculum. There are no more outdoor suspensions. Children are sent to "Success Centers" -- but this only applies to middle/ high school students. It is not available for elementary school students. It requires a formal referral process, and there are no absences because attendance is taken at the Success Center.**
- **Opportunity schools** are only for high-level violations -- those with juvenile issues and formal, serious charges. They are administratively assigned and there are 2 Opportunity schools -- McArthur (in the south) and Jan Mann (in the north).
- **Ruth Owens Kruse** (in the south) and **Robert Renick** (in the north) are the most restrictive schools. These are for students who cannot function in a regular, traditional setting, even with special ed services. The children attending these schools must have an IEP. The goal is for these children to increase self-control, develop more appropriate skills, and be able to progress to a less-restrictive learning environment.
- **COPE Center** is for youth who are going to be parents. To attend is the child's choice! To attend COPE, the child must have an interview. Every school has a teenage-parent program, and not all youth want to go to COPE.
- **No one can change a child's school (if they are in the dependency system) without the school office's permission.**
- **Magnet schools' application period opens in October for the next school year. Make sure your students apply!**
- **Bullying must be investigated, but the bully must be named.**
- **Every time a child's school placement is changed ,it takes about 4 months for the child to adjust.**
- **There are now mental health coordinators in schools and a clinician to do risk/threat assessments and make necessary referrals.**
- On the school report, full case-management DVF flags are designated. That is how they know children are in the system and cannot be moved without permission from JJSO. (Designations are attached below.) Also on the school report are the special education exceptionalities (with codes attached below).

Things to be mindful of when reading the school report (called the C sheet):

- Lunch – F - every child in the dependency system should be receiving free lunch.
- Line #4 - unweighted GPA must be at least 2.0 to graduate.
- Line #5 - DCF- the letter code will designate the case management agency.
- Line #6 - SCMS referrals (normal is 0-3). SCMs are student case-management referrals and can be from therapeutic to behavior disruptions.
- Line #7 - Absences & tardies.
- Line # 8 - Contact info: if placement or case manager changes, this information must also be updated.
- Grades are most current on front page.
- Bottom of front page – **Exceptionality code** is listed and attachment (below) explains codes. Will list IEP date and Psychological evaluation date. This must be done every 3 years. If it says “full time,” it means child is in a self-contained classroom for special education.

- When GALS visit a school, they need to show the court order appointing a GAL to the case, their appointment/assignment to the case, and ID. The school will make a copy and put the information in the child’s cumulative record.
- Get to know the school, the administrators, child’s counselor, and teachers.

First Star Academy at the University of Miami:

- **A college prep program for youth impacted by the child welfare system. All they need is an open dependency case!**
- **99% of children in the program earn a high school diploma, and 92% go to a 4-year university.**
- Students receive instruction in academics, life skills, and have adult support and mentoring.
- The program is open for children who are currently in Grade 8 and that will be going into Grade 9 next year.
- During the summer, children on the UM campus for a 4-week program. They live in the dorms, attend classes, and go on field trips, etc.
- During the school year, they attend 1 Saturday a month.
- For more information, contact Maria de Castro at 305-284-9937, m.decastro3@miami.edu

Educate Tomorrow:

- A mentoring program for youth in foster care. It is focused on youth with an open dependency case or homeless youth.
- They work with every student individually. They participate in permanency roundtables and partner with Foster Care Review and Lawyers for Children America.
- They promote independence through education.
- All the Florida colleges have on-campus coaches for our youth.
- They assist students to ensure they have SAT/ACT waivers (no fees to take necessary tests).
- They assist students with FASFA readiness.
- They conduct college tours.
- Through **Positive Pathways**, there is a point person at every school familiar with the tuition waiver. They will assist our youth.

Vanessa Thorrington, PhD is the Education Manager at Our Kids.:

- She can assist you with best-interest staffings, which must be held every time there is a consideration to change a child's school placement.
- She will also prepare you for the IEP process.
- Her goals are **empowerment and advocacy**.



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

JUVENILE JUSTICE SUPPORT OFFICE (JJSO)

Mark E. Zaher, Director

Sylvia R. Godoy, District Chairperson

OVERVIEW

Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) Juvenile Justice Support Office (JJSO) in School Operations provides direct assistance to court-involved students and their families. These court-involved students are dependent (foster care) and/or delinquent youth. This unique M-DCPS program is located onsite at the Children's Courthouse and serves as a liaison between the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida and the school District. The assistance provided to students involved in the juvenile justice and/or child welfare systems by JJSO District Court Liaisons are in the areas of personal/social, academic, and career development; and include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conducting educational reviews at the request of the Juvenile Court.
- Providing educational expertise and advocacy in Court.
- Advising court-involved students in selecting and enrolling in appropriate educational, vocational and/or technical programs.
- Facilitating educational conferences between court-involved students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) and agency personnel.
- Consulting and collaborating with Child Protective Investigators (CPI) Full Case Managers, Guardians Ad-Litem, Juvenile Probation Officers, and others involved in the juvenile court system.
- Ensuring educational stability for all dependent students and facilitating school re-entry for delinquent students.
- Conveying information from the Court to the appropriate district, regional, and school-site personnel.
- Consulting with school-based liaisons and providing feedback and recommendations.
- Directing DCF workers, juvenile probation officers, and full case managers to the appropriate school personnel.
- Conducting individual and group pre-service training sessions for new Guardians ad-litem, DCF workers, juvenile probation officers, full case managers, assistant public defenders, assistant state attorneys, and the judiciary on understanding the educational system and advocating for our students.
- Providing direct assistance, resources, and immediate response to school personnel relating to issues involving students who are under the supervision of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and/or the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

IMPORTANT ACRONYMS & TERMINOLOGY

BIP	Behavioral Intervention Plan
DSIS	District Student Information System
ELL	English Language Learner
EOC	End of Course Exams
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment (AKA FAB)
FDLRS	Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
FSA	Florida Standards Assessment
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Act
IEP	Individual Education Plan (Special Education)
MTSS	Multi-Tier System of Supports
RTI	Response to Intervention
SST	Student Support Team
TABE	Test of Adult Basic Education
❖	504 Accommodation Plan
❖	Surrogate Parent
❖	Student Success Center (Alternative to Suspension)



**SCHOOL OPERATIONS
JUVENILE JUSTICE SUPPORT OFFICE (JJSO)**



**OUR KIDS FULL CASE MANAGEMENT PROVIDERS
DCF FLAG DESIGNATIONS**

- D. Center for Family and Child Enrichment (CFCE)**

- E. Children's Home Society (CHS)**

- F. Family Resource Center (FRC)**

- O. Extended foster care or Independent Living age 18+**

- Y. Our Kids Temporary Code (Utilized for new DCF cases prior to full case management agency assignment or for DCF cases from out of county/state jurisdictions)**

- N. No longer under the supervision of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and/or Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.**



**SCHOOL OPERATIONS
JUVENILE JUSTICE SUPPORT OFFICE
SPECIAL EDUCATION – EXCEPTIONALITIES**

- C ORTHOPEDICALLY IMPAIRED**
- F SPEECH IMPAIRED**
- G LANGUAGE IMPAIRED**
- H DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**
- I VISUALLY IMPAIRED**
- J EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIOR/DISABILITIES**
- K SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABLED**
- L GIFTED**
- M HOSPITAL / HOMEBOUND**
- O DUAL-SENSORY IMPAIRED**
- P AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER**
- S TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURED**
- T DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED**
- V OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRED**
- W INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
District Student Information System
Important Withdrawal Codes



CODE	DESCRIPTION
<i>DNE</i>	<i>EXPECTED TO ATTEND A SCHOOL BUT DID NOT ENTER</i>
W01	PROMOTED OR RETAINED
W02	TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL IN MDCPS
W3A	WITHDRAW TO ATTEND A ANOTHER DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL IN FLA
W3B	WITHDRAW TO ATTEND ANOTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL OUT-OF-STATE
W04	WITHDRAW TO ATTEND A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL IN OR OUT-OF-STATE
W05	RELEASE FROM COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE
W12	WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOL DUE TO DEATH
W13	WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOL JJSO
<i>W15</i>	<i>WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOL DUE TO NONATTENDANCE</i>
W18	WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOL DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS
W22	WHEREABOUTS IS UNKNOWN
W24	WITHDRAWN FROM SCHOOL TO ATTEND HOME EDUCATION PROGRAM
W25	UNDER COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE
W26	WITHDRAWS FROM SCHOOL TO ENTER THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM
W06	STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
W08	CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION
W8A	CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION - ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE COLLEGE PLACEMENT TEST
WFW	STANDARD DIPLOMA AND WITH WAIVER
WFT	STANDARD DIPLOMA ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT
WXL	ACCEL, DIPLOMA
WXT	ACCEL, DIPLOMA ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT
WXW	ACCEL, DIPLOMA ASSESS WAIVED
WGD	AWARDED A STATE OF FLORIDA DIPLOMA (GED)