

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**



Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
305-995-1000

**School Operations**  
305-805-4600 305-805-4619 (Fax)

Juvenile Justice Support Office (JJSO)

155 NW Third Street – Suite 4341  
Miami, Florida 33128

305-679-2800 305-679-2821 (Fax)  
[juvenilejusticesupport@dadeschools.net](mailto:juvenilejusticesupport@dadeschools.net)

**Mr. Mark E. Zaher, Director**

**Ms. Sylvia R. Godoy,**  
District Chairperson

District Court Liaisons

**Dr. David Ferrer**

**Mr. Nicholas Pinchinat**

**Ms. Veronica Wade**

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FLORIDA

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**Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE  
SUPPORT OFFICE**





## MISSION STATEMENT

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) School Operations, Juvenile Justice Support Office (JJSO) is committed to providing educational support and advocacy services to our students and their families who are involved with the juvenile court and the child welfare system. Our mission is to build linkages between the Court and its partner agencies and stakeholders; and the school system, in order to improve educational outcomes for court-involved students. The assistance provided to students and their families by the M-DCPS District Court Liaisons at the JJSO are in the areas of personal/social, academic, and career development.

## HISTORY

In response to State legislation requiring school districts to be proactively involved in addressing the special needs of juveniles who have been arrested, M-DCPS established the Juvenile Justice Support Office (JJSO) in 1981. In 1999, the JJSO extended services to students under the supervision of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF).

## SERVICES

The JJSO is a unique program located onsite at the Children's Courthouse. JJSO staff provides direct support and assistance to students and their families, educational expertise in Court, and consultation services to all juvenile justice and child welfare agency personnel working with our students. The services provided by JJSO District Court Liaisons include, but are not limited to the following:

- \* Conducting student educational reviews to address the needs of students involved in the juvenile court system.
- \* Facilitating educational conferences between court-involved students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) and school-site and/or agency personnel.
- \* Consulting and collaborating with Child Protective Investigators, Full Case Managers, Guardians Ad-Litem, Juvenile Probation Officers, and others involved in the juvenile court and child welfare system.
- \* Promoting school stability for all court-involved students and facilitating school re-entry and/or transition.
- \* Conveying information from the Court and agency personnel to appropriate district, regional, and school-site staff;
- \* Assisting and supporting school personnel by providing consultation and resources for issues related to students who are under the supervision of DCF and/or the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

## PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is a member of a variety of advisory committees and workgroups, and a collaborative partner with juvenile justice and child welfare system stakeholders in supporting the development and/or enhancement of services and programs that improve educational outcomes for our court-involved students. Projects, initiatives, and committees that M-DCPS is involved with include, but are not limited to:

- \* The 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Advisory Board
- \* Bench Buddies Reading Project
- \* Community-Based Care (CBC) Alliance
- \* Dependency & Delinquency Workgroups
- \* FACES Drug Dependency and Mental Health Services
- \* Fostering Panther Pride in partnership with Florida International University
- \* Georgetown Crossover Project
- \* Independent Living Educational Staffings
- \* Juvenile Drug Court
- \* One Stop Educational and Community Services Center
- \* Pre-Service Trainings for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare personnel
- \* Truancy Court Pilot Project