

# NEWS ALERT



*Miami-Dade County Public Schools*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SCHOOL DISTRICT AND UTD OFFICIALS SIGN RACE TO THE TOP MOU**

MIAMI - Miami-Dade School Board Chair Solomon C. Stinson, Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho, and United Teachers of Dade President Karen Aronowitz signed a Memorandum of Understanding supporting the state's application for the federal Race to the Top grant. The United States Department of Education provides \$4.35 billion in Race to the Top funding to states to craft and implement ambitious, innovative plans for coherent, compelling and comprehensive education reform. As much as \$90 million could be provided to the school district under Race to the Top over a five year period.

"This is a very positive step towards applying for Race to the Top funding because it shows that our teachers union solidly supports this plan," said Superintendent Carvalho. "This is a vital element that was missing in the state's previous application. Furthermore, these are needed funds that will help the school district continue to provide our students with excellent education programs."

Last month, Superintendent Carvalho was appointed via Executive Order to Chair Florida's Race to the Top Subcommittee. In his leadership role, Carvalho tapped community stakeholders to serve on a local subcommittee to provide meaningful input regarding the state's grant application. The group includes Miami-Dade School Board Vice Chair Perla Tabares Hantman; Florida Board of Education Member Roberto Martinez; UTD President Karen Aronowitz; Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Barry Johnson; Miami-Dade PTA/PTSA President Mindy Gould; Miami-Dade Teacher of the Year Cristine O'Hara; former Miami-Dade Teacher of the Year Patricia Fairclough, and Hialeah Senior High student Abel Iraiola.

Race to the Top winners will help lead the way to effective reforms and provide examples for states and local school districts throughout the country.

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